

Libyan chaos stirs global panic over oil supplies

See Aruba Today Business Pages B8 & B9



INSIDE TODAY

SPORTS NEWS

Hall of Fame center fielder Duke Snider dies at 84



In a photo provided by the Los Angeles Dodgers, former Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodger Duke Snider poses at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, date not known.

In Mexico

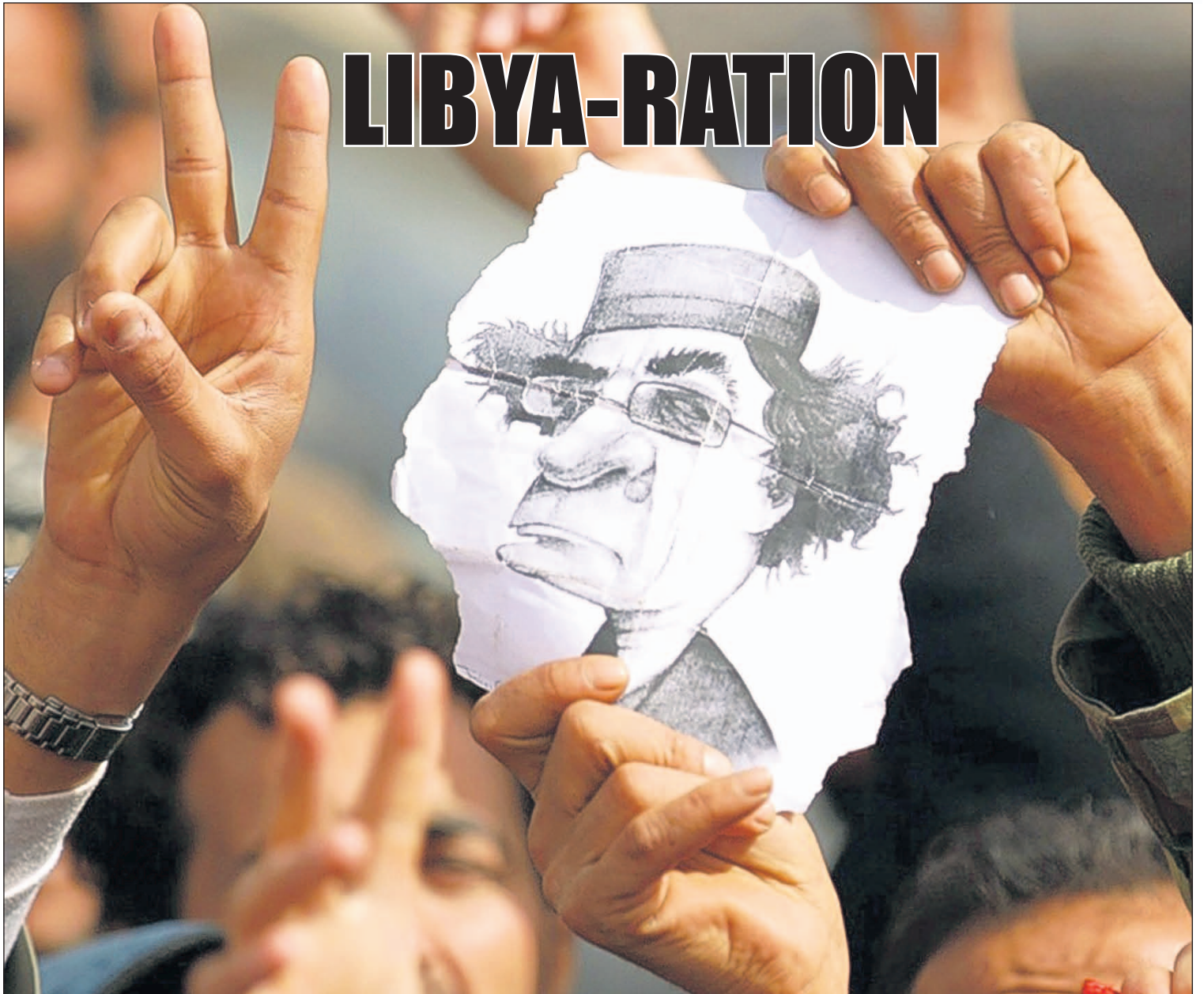
14 killed in bar attacks



Julian Zapata Espinoza (C), aka "El Piolin", alleged members of Zetas drug trafficking gang, is presented with other alleged gang members at a press conference in Mexico City. Authorities have arrested close to 700 people in an ongoing US-led international crackdown on Mexican drug cartels, US officials told the press last Friday.

Continued on page 2

LIBYA-RATION



'Free Libya' cries continue

By MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

ZAWIYA, Libya – With residents shouting "Free, free Libya," anti-government rebels who control this battle-scarred city nearest to the capital deployed tanks and anti-aircraft weapons Sunday to brace for an attack by troops loyal to Moammar Gadhafi. The Obama administration offered "any type of assistance" to Libyans seeking to oust the longtime leader. Politicians in the opposition stronghold of Benghazi set up their first leadership council

to manage day-to-day affairs, taking a step toward forming what could be an alternative to Gadhafi's regime.

In the capital Tripoli, where Gadhafi is still firmly in control, state banks began handing out the equivalent of \$400 per family in a bid to shore up public loyalty. "The Libyan people are fully behind me," Gadhafi defiantly told Serbian TV, even as about half of the country was turning against him and world leaders moved to isolate him. Gadhafi has launched by far the bloodiest crackdown in a wave of anti-

government uprisings sweeping the Arab world, the most serious challenge to his four decades in power. The United States, Britain and the U.N. Security Council all slapped sanctions on Libya this weekend. A day after President Barack Obama branded Gadhafi an illegitimate ruler who must leave power immediately, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton kept up pressure for him to step down and "call off the mercenaries" and other troops that remain loyal to him.

Continued on page 2

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Mexico

Continued from Front Page

MEXICO CITY – At least 14 people were killed in three separate attacks in bars in northern Mexico, authorities said Sunday.

In Coahuila state, across the border from Texas, nine men died late Saturday when gunmen opened fire inside two bars in separate attacks, state prosecutors said in a statement. Eleven others were wounded.

Assailants killed another five men late Saturday in a bar in the cartel-plagued border city of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua state prosecutors' spokesman Arturo Sandoval said.

In other drug violence, police in the resort city of Acapulco found the bodies of four men inside a trash container, three of them had their throats slit. The body of a fifth man was found alongside a highway, prosecutors in the state of Guerrero, where Acapulco is located, said in a Sunday statement. □

Libia

Continued from Front Page

"We are just at the beginning of what will follow Gadhafi. ... But we've been reaching out to many different Libyans who are attempting to organize in the east and as the revolution moves westward there as well," Clinton said. "I think it's way too soon to tell how this is going to play out, but we're going to be ready and prepared to offer any kind of assistance that anyone wishes to have from the United States."

Two U.S. senators said Washington should recognize and arm a provisional government in rebel-held areas of eastern Libya and impose a no-fly zone over the area — enforced by U.S. warplanes — to stop attacks by the regime.

Gadhafi's son, Seif al-Islam, in an interview with U.S. television, insisted that his father won't relinquish power and that Libya had not used force or airstrikes against its

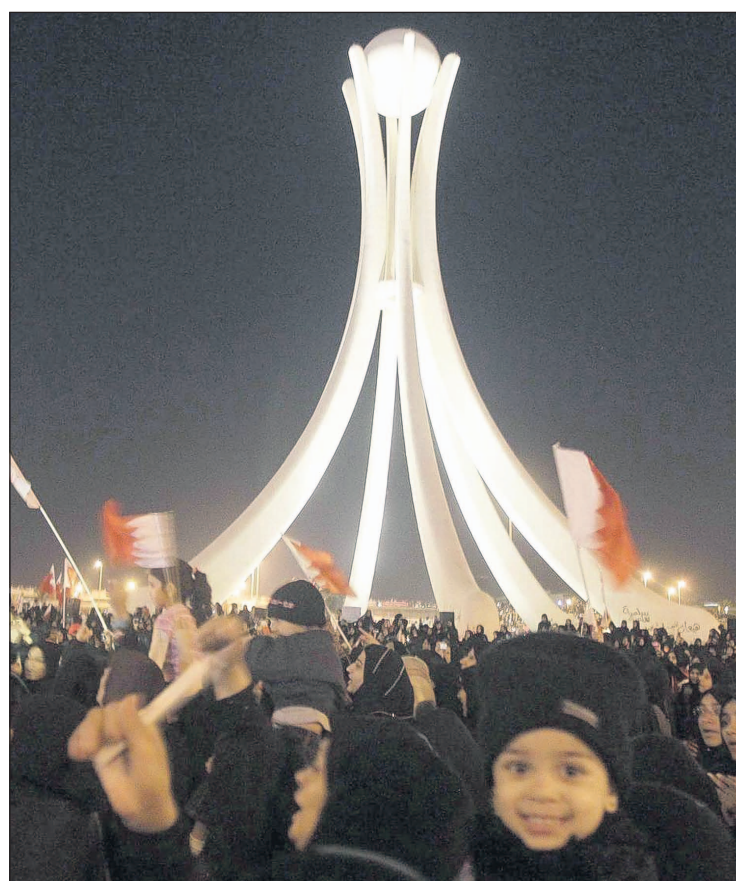
own people.

There were no reports of major violence or clashes on Sunday, although gunfire was heard after nightfall in Tripoli. The regime, eager to reinforce its view that Libya is calm and under its control, took visiting journalists to Zawiya, 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of the capital of Tripoli on Sunday. The tour, however, confirmed that anti-government rebels control the center of the city of 200,000 people, with army tanks and anti-aircraft guns mounted on pickup trucks at the ready.

Hundreds of people chanted "Gadhafi out!" in central Zawiya, a key city close to an oil port and refineries. It also is the nearest population center to Tripoli to fall into rebel hands.

The charred hulks of cars littered the city, many buildings were pockmarked by bullets, and most streets were blocked by felled palm trees or metal barricades.

Police stations and government offices have



been torched, and anti-Gadhafi graffiti — labeling him a "mass murderer" — was everywhere. In the main square, an effigy of the leader hung from a light pole with the words "Execute Gadhafi" on its chest.

"To us, Gadhafi is the 'Dracula' of Libya," said Wael al-Oraibi, an army officer in Zawiya who decided to join the rebels in large part after Gadhafi used mercenaries from sub-Saharan Africa against residents of the city. □



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In Wisconsin

Largest crowds since Vietnam War march

MADISON, Wisconsin— A crowd estimated at more than 70,000 people on Saturday waved American flags, sang the national anthem and called for the defeat of a Wisconsin plan to curb public sector unions that has galvanized opposition from the American labor movement.

In one of the biggest rallies at the state Capitol since the Vietnam War, union members and their supporters braved frigid temperatures and a light snowfall to show their displeasure.

The mood was upbeat despite the setback their cause suffered earlier this week when the state Assembly approved the Republican-backed restrictions on union collective

bargaining rights over fierce Democratic objections. "I'm deeply honored to be here with you," said Peter Yarrow, a veteran of many social protests during his 50-year folk music career and a founding member of the group Peter, Paul and Mary. "If you persist, you will prevail."

What began two weeks ago as a Republican effort in one small U.S. state to balance the budget has turned into a confrontation with unions that could be the biggest since then President Ronald Reagan fired striking air traffic controllers nearly 30 years ago.

Republicans still must push the measure through the state Senate, which has been unable to muster a quorum for a

vote because of a Democratic boycott.

If the plan is approved in Wisconsin, a number of other states where Republicans swept to victory in the 2010 elections could follow.

Already, other legislatures including Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Idaho, Tennessee, and Kansas are working on union curbs.

Unlike previous protests, the rally on Saturday brought out thousands of union workers not directly affected by the bill, including the state's firefighters, exempted along with police from the Republican proposal.

Dozens of private sector unions were represented as well at the event.

No "Tea Party" supporters of

the proposal championed by Republican Gov. Scott Walker were spotted on Saturday. They staged a smaller rally of

their own in Madison a week ago.

The rally felt more like a party than a protest. □

In Texas

4th child dead after fire at day care



Texas investigators are looking into whether seven preschoolers may have been left alone in the home before the fire broke out.

HOUSTON — A fourth child has died following a fire at a home day care center in Houston.

A spokeswoman for Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital said a child who had been in critical condition since

Thursday's fire died Saturday. Details weren't released.

Texas investigators are looking into whether seven preschoolers may have been left alone in the home before the fire broke out.

No problems had been re-

ported since the day care was licensed.

Witnesses who lived nearby reported seeing the day care's operator, 22-year-old Jessica Tata, arrive at her one-story home in a minivan Thursday and then run out, screaming for help. □

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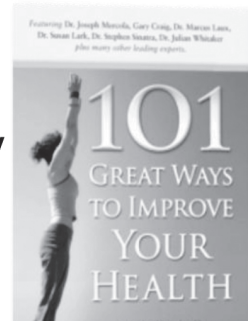
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Co-authored by Aruba's
Carlos Viana, OMD, CCN

Palo Alto pilot walks away from plane crash

ALAMEDA/PALO ALTO-A man's plan to fly his single-engine plane from Palo Alto to Illinois ended abruptly today when his engine cut out and he was forced to land in the muddy salt flats across the bay in Alameda County.

Shortly after taking off from the Palo Alto Airport this afternoon, the Cessna 140's engine began sputtering, said Menlo Park Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman.

The pilot tried to return to the airport but instead had to ditch the plane just south of the Dumbarton Rail Bridge, at roughly 12:40.

The pilot landed the plane safely and escaped before the plane flipped upside down, Schapelhouman said. The pilot's only injury was a jammed finger. Schapelhouman did not release the man's name but said he was a retired commercial pilot with more than 30,000 hours of flying experience.

Rescuers from the Menlo Park Fire Department used a flat-



Rescuers from the Menlo Park Fire Department used a flat-bottomed, Everglade-style air boat to reach the crash site and ferry the pilot back to San Mateo County, where he refused treatment and was released, Schapelhouman said.

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The pilot is currently working with a private salvage company, the Coast Guard, the California Department of Fish and Game and the fire department

to recover the plane and prevent any spilled fuel from polluting the area.

Schapelhouman said he appreciated the fact that the pilot safely landed the plane without injuring himself or anyone on the ground.

"He was able to ditch it in the mud, in a safe area and that's to his credit," he said. □

Rising oil prices could stall states' recoveries

WASHINGTON—Rising oil prices could trample prospects for economic recovery in many states, three governors warned as a leading economist said they also threaten the country's economic comeback.

"Oil prices I hope don't go any higher," said Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, a possible contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012. "But everywhere now one hears there's more than a minor risk they're going to go a lot higher." A spike could freeze business investment and consumer spending, he said during a meeting of the National Governors Association.

Political disruptions in oil-producer Libya helped push crude prices briefly past \$100 a barrel last week. Retail gasoline prices, meanwhile, hit a national average of \$3.19 a gallon, the highest pump price in nearly 2 1/2 years.

Leaders in the United States and elsewhere have sprung into action, with members of Congress asking President Barack Obama to tap emergency reserves and Saudi Arabia saying it is willing to plug gaps in supply.

"They're a threat to the world, not just America," North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue, a Democrat, said about the prices. "It's like an algebra formula where you're trying to figure out the answer to the problem but you don't know the unknown and the unknown is the cost of oil," she said, calling oil "the elephant in the room" for states.

While the national recession officially ended in 2009, states' budgets have been slow to recover from an historic collapse in revenues that caused their governments to slash spending, hike taxes, borrow and turn to the federal government for help. □

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Florida woman arrested for Girl Scout cookie-induced fight

FLORIDA—The annual crop of Girl Scout cookies hit doorsteps this month, and those scrumptious boxes of Thin Mints and Tagalongs are inciting bouts of criminal activity nationwide.

The accusation led to an all-out brawl between the two, with cookie monster Howard allegedly chasing her roommate with scissors and hitting her with a board and a sign.

The ultimate price of those cookies: \$10,000 bond for Howard, who police charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

In Georgia, it's the Girl Scouts who are causing a ruckus.

A troop in Villa Rica, Ga., a small town about 30 miles west of Atlanta, set up a cookie stand at a strip mall last

week, but the business venture didn't last long.

A local police officer approached the troop to ask if they had applied for a peddler's license, according to the Associated Press.

The scouts never got the right license, so the cop made them pack up their boxes of Samoas and Trefoils and apply for a license, meanwhile, scaring some of the youngest cookie sellers, who thought they

might be shipped off to prison.

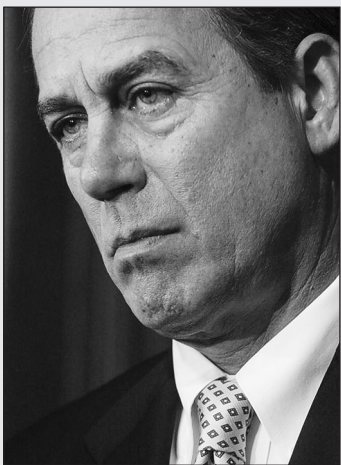
Within a few days, the scouts snagged the permit, and the city gave the girls a free pizza party to apologize for all the commotion. □

In Naples, Fla., last week, 31-year-old Hersha Howard woke up and accused her roommate of eating her Thin Mint cookies, according to the Associated Press.



Boehner makes budget at religious convention

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — House Speaker John Boehner is making his case for the GOP plan to prevent a shutdown of the federal government in a speech to religious broadcasters. Excerpts of Boehner's speech to the National Religious Broadcasters convention were released before the evening event in Nashville. In the remarks, the Ohio Republican says: "Americans want the government to stay open, and they want it to spend less money." The Democratic-controlled Senate has rejected a plan by the Republican-controlled House to fund government operations through the end of September while slashing \$61 billion in spending. Lawmakers must approve a new spending plan before the current budget expires on Friday. Both sides have sought to blame the other with the first government shutdown since 1996 looming. □



House Speaker John Boehner is making his case for the GOP plan to prevent a shutdown of the federal government in a speech to religious broadcaster.

In Chicago

Judge rules for gov't on Rajaratnam case

CHICAGO — A federal judge ordered that Galleon hedge fund founder Raj Rajaratnam must reveal taped evidence to be used in his upcoming insider trading trial set for March 8, a court document said.

U.S. District Judge Richard Holwell, who will preside over the case, ordered taped evidence be released immediately but export testimony be provided by March 22.

"Rajaratnam shall immediately identify any wiretap or consensually recorded telephone calls that he presently intends to introduce into evidence at trial and provide the government with the expert disclosures," a court document stated. "However, with respect to experts ... Rajaratnam shall provide such disclosures by March 22."

The trial, to be held in U.S.



District Court in New York, is expected to last six to eight weeks. One-time billionaire Rajaratnam is charged with conspiracy to commit securities fraud by working with others to trade in several publicly traded companies based on insider information. The charges carry a prison sentence of up to 25 years. He was arrested and charged

in October 2009, the central figure in what U.S. prosecutors describe as the biggest probe of insider trading at hedge funds on record. The allegations of insider trading against Rajaratnam center on a total of 35 stocks, mostly of technology companies. Galleon had \$7 billion under management at its peak. □

In Texas

Utah draws thousands for a no-shooting-required permit

AUSTIN, Tex – Texans seeking concealed handgun licenses are increasingly turning to Utah, a state that does not require actually shooting a gun to get a permit.

“Once the word got out, everybody was doing it,” said Texas state Rep. Lon Burnam.

From 2009 to 2010 the number of Utah permits issued to Texans more than doubled to 5,678 from 2,173, according to Utah’s Bureau of Criminal Identification. Of the 66,371 permits Utah issued last year, more than 70 percent went to out-of-staters, bureau figures show. All this was while the overall number of concealed licenses issued in Utah declined.

Utah requires only four hours of training and no shooting, while Texas requires 10 hours, including firing a gun on a shooting range. The Utah fee is \$65, compared to \$140 in Texas. And it’s possible to get a Utah permit without ever setting foot in that state.

“It’s easier,” said Carrie Kroll of the Texas Pediatric Society, who got a Utah permit in advance of the Texas legislative session that began in January. “I know just enough to understand what I don’t know.”

The Utah course teaches how to safely load, unload, store and carry a firearm, and explains Utah and federal laws on use of force by private citizens. Participants learn basic gun safety, such as treating all firearms as if they are loaded, and they learn about the parts of a gun, different types of ammunition and various shooting positions.

Utah applicants do not have to take a test while applicants to the Texas program do.

Brian Malte, director of state legislation for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, said he worries that some people are getting Utah permits because they want to skirt background-check provisions in their home states.

“What are they hiding?” Malte asked.

Aware of the loophole, Utah is moving to tighten requirements. A bill recently approved by the Utah House and Senate would require out-of-staters seeking a Utah permit to first get one from their home state if their state recognizes the Utah permit. □

Navy sailor shot after ramming two cars

LOS ANGELES – Navy police stopped a sailor who seemed drunk when he drove to the gate of the San Diego base early Saturday morning, then sped away and hit a couple police cars before officers shot him, authorities said.

The sailor was hospitalized with a gunshot wound to his abdomen, and doctors performed surgery on him, said Brian O’Rourke, a Navy spokesman.

His condition after surgery was not immediately known, and the Navy plans to eventually take him into custody.

Navy police arrested another sailor who was riding in the car with the driver, O’Rourke said.

The driver had stopped to let that second sailor out of the car, while he was being



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chased by police officers in cars and on foot.

Scott Sutherland, a Navy spokesman, said incidents like this are “extremely rare” at the

naval base.

The Navy did not immediately release the names and ranks of the two sailors, or say what charges they may face. □

Thieves heist tractor trailer of Nike AirMax shoes

Kansas City, Missouri – Police in Kansas City are on the lookout -- for shoe salesmen.

Anyone selling new Nike AirMax 90 sneakers on the street or anywhere other than a shoe store could be connected to the heist on Thursday of a tractor trailer containing about 3,000 pairs of sought-after shoes.

The trailer disappeared in Junction City, Kansas, Police Chief Jim Corwin of Kansas City said in his online police blog.

Another trailer full on Nikes was stolen previously in Junction City and some of those shoes showed up in Kansas City.

In late December, someone stole a trailer in

Kansas City containing 4,700 pairs of Nike Air Jordans, and some of those have been sold in the area, Corwin said. Those shoes were valued at more than \$200,000. The tractor trailer was later recovered in Iowa. Kansas City Police Sgt. Stacey Graves said on Saturday that the thieves apparently sell the shoes in individual pairs or in batches.

“There are some people who set up shop and start selling shoes in a parking lot,” Graves said.

Graves said there is good reason to be suspicious if individuals are selling new Nike brands on the street or in parking lot. □



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After a delay from rain

Children's Carnival Parade today



ORANJESTAD - Aruba's youngest carnival enthusiasts take center stage as the children parade down the streets in Oranjestad dressed in colorful costumes representing various themes. The parade will start today, Monday at 2:00 p.m. in downtown Oranjesday and finished late in the afternoon. Parents and fans will take to the sidelines to cheer on Aruba's future as they paraded down the streets waving, dancing. Hundreds of children enjoy the opportunity to show off their dancing skills and colorful costumes. The Prime Minister of Aruba has declared today a Holiday in honor of Aruba's future. □

Fantastic Carnival Parade last Saturday night

Tivoli's Parade lights up town



ORANJESTAD – The streets were filled on Saturday night with lots of bring lights and Carnival goers.

Carnival means weeks of events that bring you colorfully decorated floats, contagiously throbbing music, luxuriously costumed groups of celebrants of all ages, King & Queen elections, electrifying jump ups and torch light parades that wind their way through the streets at night, the Jouvert morning: the Children's Parades and finally the Grand Parade. This has got to be the greatest party ever!

Where else can you find Antillean "tumba" music, the Calypso and steel bands of the English Caribbean, the salsa beat of Latin countries plus marching bands and a smattering of Dutch oom-pa-pa? The 2 month long celebration culminates with the all-day Grand Parade on Sun-

day, March 6th, with everyone and everything all decked out.

Be sure to put on your shades next weekend, there will be an awful lot of glitter out there! Monday is an official holiday for everyone to recoup and recover! You can relax at the pool with daiquiris to replace all that precious liquid you lost jumping around.

But just when you think it is all over, there's the Farewell Parade and the burning of Momo, indicating the end of Carnival and the beginning of Lent. Symbolically, Momo's ashes are used on Ash Wednesday.

All in all, we think this is the perfect time for people to come visit us in Aruba. But so does everybody else! So make your reservations well in advance to come celebrate carnival the way we do, right here in Aruba! □



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Marriott Vacation Club Introduces 'Destinations' Vacation Ownership Program

Tom and Yvonne van Bladel's extended stays in Aruba have been filled with times spent windsurfing, snorkeling as well as simply luxuriating poolside at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club (ASC). Seasoned travelers, the pair still find returning to Aruba, a month at a time, a favored option even among a world of choices currently being offered through the Marriott Vacation Club

(MVC). The recent introduction of MVC's new Destinations points-based program, which provides for more flexible options in the length of stay, type of accommodation and the choice of the destination itself, has made for even more memorable, convenient as well as money-saving vacations for the Van Bladels. "Aruba has always been good to us, so if we couldn't easily

exchange for other destinations, we are happy to return to Aruba, but the new points-based program is attractive for its flexibility and the different possibilities it affords," explains Tom. "In the end, not only does it assure us benefits in locations and levels of accommodations, it also saves us money in allowing for greater availability and for longer time periods, and in taking advantage of airfare deals without having a set check-in and check-out day."

For Tom and Yvonne, the Marriott's new Destinations Program perfectly fits their lifestyle. Both are enjoying retirement with extended travel as well as the opportunity to share the benefits of vacation ownership with their kids. "We've already taken two of the oldest grandkids to Branson, Missouri, and had a great time. A family trip to Aruba is definitely on the agenda for the future," comments Yvonne.

Yvonne and Tom are fans of the MVC product and own from both Hawaii and Aruba. Both destinations are in high demand and offer extremely favorable exchanges. But the annual vacation in Aruba always proves a treasured time. With the Destinations Program, the Van Bladels were able to enjoy the entire month of their recent vacation in Aruba without having to change rooms, mid-stay.



From the comforts of their home base of a luxurious suite in the Spyglass Tower of the Surf Club, they freely explored the island, taking frequent trips to their favorite snorkeling spot at Mangel Halto.

"It's easy to go anywhere, or simply to take better advantage of our Aruba stay," comments Tom.

"With all the options, we enjoy discovering all the different possibilities we have open to us, planning our vacations and getting the maximum benefit from it."

The level of satisfaction the couple has found with the new program has been so great, they were recent guests at a sales meeting among Aruba's MVC associates. They shared easy camaraderie with many of the associates with whom they have become friends over the years, while they explained what they found most

attractive about the Destinations points-based program and how it has enhanced their vacation experience.

"We had a great advisor, and are extremely pleased with what we can do with our vacation time now," states Yvonne. "We are now planning a longer trip to Australia and Phuket, Thailand, but will always return to Aruba. We started out with two weeks in Aruba and felt we could see ourselves with four, and now I can see myself here for six weeks.... For as long as Tom can windsurf, we'll be coming back to Aruba," she adds with a laugh.

Since its inception in 1984, Marriott Vacation Club has continued to redefine the vacation ownership experience. For more information on MVC's travel experiences, call Tel: 520-6880 to schedule a personal appointment. □



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tion from their customers, and elected their Prince Chico and Pancho Cuchi, who are loyal customers of Excelsior.

After the bingo the Queen chose a ticket from the tombola to give away the prize of the Carnival campaign a Ice Jug, full

with articles ready to go Carnival. The grand prize for the grand parade was won by Mrs. Cristina Tromp, she was very happy with the prize, the Excelsior Casino invites you to stay tune for more news regarding our new campaign March 18, 2011! Flag and hymn day! ☐



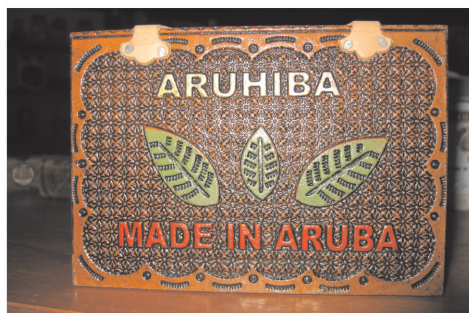
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you



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In Egypt

Arab League boss Moussa to run for president

CAIRO – Arab League chief Amr Moussa said he plans to run in Egypt's presidential elections expected later this year.

Egypt's former foreign minister declared his candidacy a day after a constitutional reform panel appointed by the country's new military rulers recommended far-reaching reforms that relaxed eligibility

rules governing who can run for president.

The changes, if adopted in a national referendum, would open presidential elections to more competition and impose a two-term limit on future presidents a dramatic shift from a system that allowed ousted leader Hosni Mubarak to rule for three decades.

Moussa told reporters the

amendments were still under discussion but that any Egyptian can now run for president. "God willing, I will be one of them," he said.

Asked if he was going to run as an independent or join a political party, Moussa said: "This is a detail that we will deal with later."

Moussa enjoys wide popularity in Egypt, largely because



Egypt's former foreign minister declared his candidacy a day after a constitutional reform panel appointed by the country's new military rulers recommended far-reaching reforms that relaxed eligibility rules governing who can run for president.

of his scathing criticism of Israel, a country seen by most Egyptians as an enemy despite the 1979 peace treaty between the two neighbors. During the 18-day pro-democracy uprising that forced Mubarak to step down as president on Feb. 11, Moussa visited Cairo's central Tahrir Square the epicenter of protests. His visit was widely seen as a test of his popularity. His convoy was greeted with chants of "We want you as president, we want you as president!"

Before becoming the Arab League's secretary general in 2001, Moussa served as Egypt's foreign minister for 10 years.

In Bahrain

Protest marches Jam the capital

MANAMA, Bahrain – Thousands of protesters streamed through Bahrain's diplomatic area and other sites chanting against the country's king and rejecting his appeals for talks to end the tiny Gulf nation's nearly two-week-old crisis.

At least three processions paralyzed parts of the capital, Manama, and appeared to reflect a growing defiance of calls by Bahrain's rulers to hold talks to ease the increasingly bitter showdown in the strategic island nation, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.

"No dialogue until the regime is gone," marchers chanted as they moved through the highly protected zone of embassies and diplomatic compounds. No violence was reported. Other marchers shouted slogans to oust Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and plastered fences with flyers denouncing security forces for attacks that have killed seven people since the first protests Feb. 14 inspired by revolts in Tunisia and Egypt. Bahrain is among the most politically volatile nations in the Gulf with majority Shiites claiming widespread discrimination by the Sunni rulers.

Libya council formed world tells Kadhafi to go

BENGHAZI, Libya – Libyan protest leaders established a transitional "national council" in cities seized from Moamer Kadhafi, as world leaders called on him to quit and protesters closed in on Tripoli. The chaos engulfing the oil-rich North African state of 6.3 million has fanned fears that Kadhafi's hold on power could descend into civil war as the United Nations said nearly 100,000 people have streamed out of the country.

The UN Security Council imposed a travel and assets ban on Kadhafi's regime and ordered an investigation into possible crimes against humanity by the Libyan leader, the first time such a decision has been made unanimously. In Washington, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the United States was prepared to offer "any kind of assistance" to Libyans seeking to overthrow Kadhafi.

On Saturday, former justice Mustafa Abdel Jalil, who quit Kadhafi's regime six days ago, told Al-Jazeera television that a transitional government would be formed to lead the

country before an election.

A spokesman announced the creation of a transitional "national council" in cities seized from Kadhafi's forces. "The creation of a national council has been announced in all freed cities of Libya," Abdel Hafiz Ghoqa told a Benghazi news conference.

The council is the "face of Libya in the transitional period," he said, adding that consultations were under way on the new body's composition and duties.

"The people of Libya will liberate their cities," Ghoqa said. "We are counting on the army to liberate Tripoli."

Kadhafi's crumbling regime now controls only western areas around the capital and

a few long-time bastions in the arid south, reporters and witnesses say.

Regime opponents appeared to control the city of Az-Zawiyah, just 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of Tripoli, where thousands took to the streets to denounce the teetering leader in front of journalists on a guided visit.

Az-Zawiyah, a middle-class satellite town on the Mediterranean that houses a number of pro-Kadhafi officers, also hosts Libya's largest oil refinery.

Witnesses said the journalists were welcomed by thousands of demonstrators, shouting "Down with the regime, we want freedom." Some were armed and fired into the air.

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*Black history***The Key to understanding our American experiment**

WASHINGTON - Can Lonnie Bunch bring black history out of its ghetto?

Will the new National Museum of African-American History and Culture, which he heads, lead to "reconciliation," as Atlanta congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis predicts? Or will it merely exacerbate the perception of a separate experience outside the nation's central story?

Bunch was appointed founding director in 2005; he has spent the years since working to build a national museum dedicated to the contributions black people have made to the great American experiment. He says the facility, scheduled to open on the National Mall in 2015, should be a place "that provides people the opportunity to go deeply into the African-American experience and understand that it is a quintessentially American experience."

"What I've learned as a historian is how central African-American history is to everything (the nation) has done. To me, it's almost as though the history and culture we want to explore is too big to be in the hands of (the black) community. It really is the best way to understand America."

Bunch echoes Lewis, who spent 15 years pushing Congress to fund the project, which finally won approval in 2003.

"We will never be able to appreciate the fullness of the American experience unless we include the whole story of the African-American experience," Lewis told Museum News.

But history is not a simple matter of dates and places, battles and victors, kings and conquerors.

Its many corners and contours reflect different truths, depending on where you stand. And no history is more baited and booby-trapped with conflicting interpretations than the history of race in America. □

Obama decision on gay marriage shows gov't trying to abolish God

Colorado Springs, Colo. — In a controversial decision, President Obama this week abandoned the Defense of Marriage Act the 1996 law that defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman, and forbids the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages. Mr. Obama ordered his administration to stop defending it in court because he has decided it's unconstitutional and unfair.

But this decision is more than political. By implication, President Obama is saying that the idea of marriage as being solely between a man and a woman is indefensible. By calling DOMA unfair, he is saying that gay marriage is a fundamental right.

The hubris of this decision should astound us. We have entered a brave new world — a world where the government has not only the authority to raise taxes, but to raze marriage. Where it has the authority not only to define speed limits, but to defy moral limits. For that is exactly what Obama has done. Marriage is, and always has been, a moral institution. It has long been surrounded by a halo of sacredness, from the very roots of humanity.

But why is this? It is not simply that marriage is a human tradition. And while marriage has implications for society, and civil authority can recognize it, it is not merely a civil institution. No, it is considered sacred because essentially all the religions of the world consider it a divine establishment.

Importance of divine rights Now, many will sneer at the idea of divine establishment of anything as antiquated and even ridiculous as a relic from a more ignorant day. But what these critics fail to realize is that this "ignorant" idea forms the basis of our nation. □

Big Labor's Last Stand

The term "big labor" is becoming a vestige of a bygone era. Union ranks have not been this thin for 75 years, when the Wagner Act catalyzed the modern labor movement. Labor is today defending its last bulwark, civil service unions. Napoleon once said that an army marches on its stomach. Today's union battle ultimately concerns how unions feed, or fund, their army that is, what remains of it. Labor is standing before the breach.

American unionization is a tale of two storylines, one public and one private. More than a third of private sector workers were members of a union in the mid-twentieth century. One quarter were still unionized by the late 1970s. Only about 7 percent of the private sector workforce is a member of a union today.

Public sector unions exist in another world. About one quarter of governmental employees were unionized by the early 1960s. That share surged to more than a third of government workers by the



1980s. In 1983, 36.7 percent of public employees were in a union. In 2010, the share was 36.2 percent. Over that same period, the rate of private sector unionization fell from 16.8 to 6.9 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). In 2009, for the first time, the number of union members working for government exceeded the number of union members working for companies.

Government unions have escaped the forces that sundereed their private sector counterparts: the deindustrialization of America, globalization,

weakening union protections and increasing employer opposition. It's like viewing two Oldsmobile cars fresh off the line in 1983. Nearly three decades later, one is rusty and run down. The other runs today as if it is 1983. But that may soon change.

The economic forces that helped sunder private unions are now, in a different sense, looming over their public counterparts. Governors are attempting to balance state books. Wisconsin faces a \$137 million shortfall this year and a \$3.6 billion deficit over the next two years. □

The mystic chords of moral leadership

Seven states had left the Union. Fort Sumter needed to be resupplied. Washington was in upheaval, sharpshooters were deployed to the roofs of buildings, a light-artillery battalion was installed on Capitol Hill.

It was in this atmosphere, 150 years ago this week, that Abraham Lincoln took the oath of office.

In more than two centuries

of turning points -- George Washington's victory at Yorktown, Woodrow Wilson's decision to enter a great European war, Franklin Roosevelt's unveiling of the New Deal, the attacks of 1941 and 2001 this may have been America's greatest, most dangerous, most portentous. At stake on March 4, 1861, was more than the survival of the nation. At stake were the values that cre-

ated the nation.

In the hands of history was a man with little formal education, no conventional religion, no executive experience, only two years' time in the House of Representatives, a distracting and difficult family situation -- but with a deep understanding of the land, a natural mastery of language, an intuitive insight into human nature and an unfailing comprehension of the consequences of his thoughts and deeds.

He knew the country and he knew his mind. He loved the Union, deplored slavery, and before his first term was over would determine that the survival of the one required the obliteration of the other. A man who had not done much with his first 52 years would accomplish two great things in his last four years. He would save the United States and, by ending slavery, he would make it worth saving.

This was a moment like no other in our history. □

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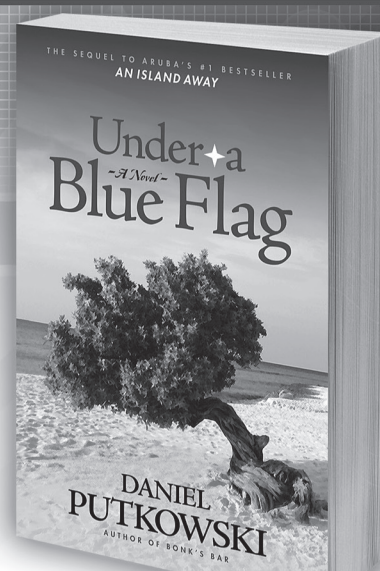


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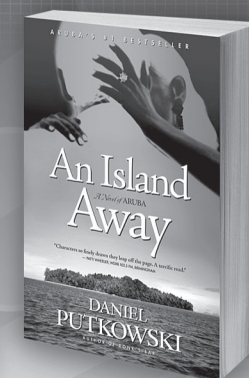
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In Oman

Two protesters shot dead

MUSCAT – Omani police shot dead two demonstrators with rubber bullets a security official said, as the deadly wave of protest rocking the Arab world spread to the normally placid pro-Western sultanate. Five people were also wounded when security forces opened fire on the demonstrators who tried to storm a police station, the official said. "Two were killed after being shot with rubber bullets as protesters attempted to storm a police station" in Sohar, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) northwest of Muscat, the official said, requesting anonymity. State news agency ONA confirmed that there had been casualties in Sohar, saying that police and anti-riot forces had clashed with demonstrators. "Police and anti-riot squads confronted this group of wreckers in a bid to

protect people and their property, which caused casualties," it said. ONA said in another statement that riots began at dawn on Saturday and continued and that several government and private cars were torched. Protesters also burned the house of Sohar's governor and a police station. The police post targeted by the protesters is near Earth Roundabout, where some 250 demonstrators have been holding a sit-in, witnesses told AFP. The demonstrators have dubbed the intersection "Reform Roundabout," as they press for change in the Gulf state where Sultan Qaboos has been in power for four decades. The protesters, who were mostly unemployed, have been demanding jobs, better salaries and measures to curb corruption, the witnesses said. □

Rocket fired from Gaza hits Israel

JERUSALEM – A rocket fired from the Gaza Strip hit Israeli territory morning, raising Israel's alert level but causing no damage or casualties, according to Israel's military and police.

The latest rocket, which the military's spokeswoman said struck a field in the Eshkol region in southern Israel, comes after a string of Israeli air raids targeting militant training camps across the Gaza Strip on Saturday night.

A first set of strikes hit two camps belonging to Islamic Jihad, while a second raid targeted two camps belonging to the Ezzedine al-Qassem Brigades, the armed wing of Gaza's ruling Hamas movement, in the southern city of Rafah. The second raid wounded four people including a toddler, Palestinian officials and medics said. A third air strike blasted an Islamic Jihad facil-



The second raid wounded four people including a toddler, Palestinian officials and medics said.

A third air strike blasted an Islamic Jihad facility west of Khan Yunis, witnesses said.

ity west of Khan Yunis, witnesses said. The military said the attacks "targeted a number of terror hubs in response to recent rocket fire into Israel." The air raids came after tensions rose along the Israel-Gaza border this week following clashes in which an Islamic Jihad gunman was killed and a rocket attack on the Israeli

city of Beersheba hit a house but caused no casualties. It was the first rocket to reach the city since the devastating offensive Israel waged against Gaza December 2008 to January 2009, prompting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to warn the territory's militants not to "test" the Jewish state. □

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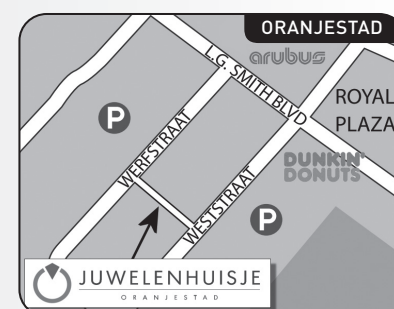
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Jordan PM promises election law this year

AMMAN, Jordan – Jordan's prime minister promised to introduce laws some time this year that would give Jordanians a greater say in politics, but angry opposition leaders said the pace of reform is too slow.

A growing protest movement in Jordan is seeking far-reaching political reforms that would restrict the authority of Jordan's King Abdullah II. Currently, the king can dissolve the Cabinet and parliament by decree.

In a speech to parliament Prime Minister Marouf al-Bakhit, appointed by the king earlier this month, said he is serious about reforms. "I'm not opting for a temporary containment policy, but real reform is a gradual process," he said.

The prime minister said he needs time for a public dialogue about new legislation. However, Islamist opposition leader Zaki Bani Ersheid said al-Bakhit's speech was "pathetic, disappointing and frustrating." "Reform isn't gradual and won't take a year. It must be immediate and I mean within one month at the latest," said Bani Ersheid of the Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, Jordan's largest opposition group. "We're not willing to take promises anymore," he said. "It's not only laws that must be amended, but there must also be constitutional changes that would allow for the prime minister and the Cabinet to be elected."

Al-Bakhit told lawmakers that his priority was to change a controversial election law, which the Brotherhood and other critics claim favors conservative tribal loyalists of the king.

The ultimate goal is to have future governments formed from a parliamentary majority, al-Bakhit added.

Jordanian protesters demanded that the prime minister be chosen through elections, not by the king.

Al-Bakhit said the other laws to change this year include bolstering the country's 34 political parties and legislation that would widen press freedoms. □

After Tunisian blunder French FM offers to resign

PARIS – France's foreign minister sent her resignation to President Nicolas Sarkozy saying she could no longer let "political and media attacks" against her discredit France's foreign policy.

Foreign Minister Michele Alliot-Marie had only been in the post since November, but became the center of raging controversy for her December vacation in Tunisia as popular protests there led to the ouster of the former French colony's longtime strongman.

Sarkozy was preparing a prime-time address to the nation night as speculation swirled that a new Cabinet shake-up was in the offing with Alliot-Marie said to be in the ejector seat.

A spokesman for Sarkozy's office declined immediate comment about whether the president had accepted the resignation. Alliot-Marie, 64, has served in high ranking posts since France's conservatives regained control of the National Assembly in 2002. She has been the minister of defense, interior, justice and foreign affairs.

She developed a reputation



Foreign Minister Michele Alliot-Marie had only been in the post since November, but became the center of raging controversy for her December vacation in Tunisia as popular protests there led to the ouster of the former French colony's longtime strongman.

as a workhorse loyal and reliable, if rather uninspiring. But at the least, the turmoil over her holiday in Tunisia as its longtime regime was crumbling showed her to be politically tone-deaf.

A recent poll showed a double-digit drop in her popularity ratings after reports said she had accepted a free ride in Tunisia on the jet of a Tunisian businessman with ties to former President Zine Ben Abidine Ben Ali's family. Her aging parents also signed a real estate deal with a busi-

nessman allegedly close to the fallen regime.

"Though I have the feeling of not having done anything wrong, I have thus decided to leave my post as minister of foreign and European affairs," Alliot-Marie wrote in the letter to Sarkozy, made public by her office. She said she had become "the target of political and then media attacks trading in suspicions, counter-truths and shortcuts" over the case, and didn't want Sarkozy or French diplomacy to be harmed as a result. □

Italy suspends treaty with Libya

ROME – Italy has effectively suspended a treaty with Libya that includes a nonaggression clause, amid turmoil in the North African nation, the foreign minister said.

The suspension removes a possible obstacle to Rome taking part in any peacekeeping operations in its former colony, or allowing the use of its military bases.

"We signed the friendship treaty with a state, but when the counterpart no longer exists in this case the Libyan state the treaty cannot be applied," Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said in comments to Sky Italia. "The de facto suspension of this treaty, even without declaring it, is already a reality."

In 2008, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi signed the friendship treaty that included a pledge by Rome to pay Libya US\$5 billion as compensation for its 30-year colonial rule. Libya in return promised to help Italy crack down on illegal immigrants.

One of the provisions in the treaty states that the parties commit themselves "not to resort to threatening or using violence." Another provision included a pledge by Italy neither to use

nor allow others to use its territory in any hostile act against Libya.

There are several U.S. and NATO bases in Italy, and the U.S. 6th Fleet is based near Naples. After the treaty was signed, NATO sought clarification from Rome, and Frattini had to reassure allies at the time that multilateral international treaties that Rome was party to would stand.

Libya and Italy, whose islands are just a few hundred miles (kilometers) away from Libya's coast, have enjoyed warm ties recently and strong business interests, with Berlusconi and Gadhafi exchanging frequent visits.

As the protests in Libya spread and Gadhafi was accused of using excessive force against his people, Rome stepped up its condemnation of the regime's brutal crackdown.

Frattini welcomed a U.N. Security Council's decision Saturday to impose sanctions against Gadhafi's regime. He said that imposing a no-fly zone over Libya which council members did not consider remains an "important" option. But he added that further reflection was needed as such an option would significantly escalate the level of international community's intervention. □

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In Belgium

Boy stuck 2 years in Ukraine arrives

BRUSSELS — A baby trapped more than two years in Ukraine by bureaucratic hurdles has arrived in Brussels with his parents, a pair of legally married Belgian men, ending the couple's long legal battle to bring their son home. Samuel Ghilain arrived with his parents Peter Meurrens and Laurent Ghilain shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday to a crowd of thrilled relatives and waiting journalists.

"It has been better than we thought to see him again after one year," Meurrens said at Brussels' main airport, adding that he felt "lots of joy and relief to him again."

"This morning was the most stressful of my life until we got the final message from Lviv in Ukraine that they passed border control and were on the plane," he said. "That was incredible."

He said the couple wept when they met the boy again at a prearranged meeting point in Warsaw and that Samuel was immediately at ease when they held him.

Some of the pair's relatives wept, as well, when the couple and the boy came into



Samuel Ghilain arrived with his parents Peter Meurrens and Laurent Ghilain shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday to a crowd of thrilled relatives and waiting journalists.

view at the Brussels airport. Meurrens' mother, Dina de Graer, carried a yellow stuffed duck as a gift for her grandson.

Samuel, now aged 2 years and 3 months, was born to a surrogate mother in Ukraine in November 2008. Meurrens and Ghilain cradled him in their arms shortly after his birth and saw him a number of times after that.

But for more than two years, bureaucratic hurdles kept the baby from being issued a Belgian passport. □

In the Netherlands

Libya case a new challenge for court

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — In its nine years of existence, the International Criminal Court has yet to prove itself. Now it has been handed another tough assignment meting out justice for possible crimes against humanity in Libya.

The court's first trial has been a shambles; it cannot apprehend its most wanted suspects and it has been criticized for focusing too much on Africa. Yet the order by the U.N. Security Council to investigate Libya marks an achievement for the court, which is still struggling for global acceptance. The 15 Security Council members unanimously approved the decision Saturday, even though five of them including permanent members China, Russia and the United States themselves refuse to recognize the court's jurisdiction and have not signed its founding treaty.

"It is very positive that the ICC is being looked to by the Security Council as a possible tool for accountability," Elizabeth Evenson of Human Rights Watch said.

Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo was instructed to report back to the council in two months on his investigation whether Libyan leader



The 15 Security Council members unanimously approved the decision Saturday, even though five of them including permanent members China, Russia and the United States themselves refuse to recognize the court's jurisdiction and have not signed its founding treaty.

Moammar Gadhafi's violent crackdown on anti-government protests featured crimes against humanity.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon cited reports perhaps 1,000 have died amid a popular uprising and the government's violent crackdown on Gadhafi critics.

The Security Council move sends "a very strong message to Gadhafi and Gadhafi's henchmen that the violence against civilians that has been reported needs to stop," Evenson added.

The investigation marks another step toward holding authoritarian leaders accountable for the criminal activities

of their regimes, a process that started with Yugoslavia's Slobodan Milosevic, who died before his trial could finish. It continues now through the war crimes trials of Liberia's Charles Taylor and Bosnian Serb strongman Radovan Karadzic, whose cases are under way at other international courts in The Hague.

Prosecutors at the ICC will first carry out a preliminary probe to establish if crimes falling within the court's jurisdiction have been committed in Libya. That assessment will include the seriousness of the allegations and whether Gadhafi is likely to face justice in Libya. □

In Venezuela

Thousands awaiting homes pose challenge for Chavez

CARACAS, Venezuela — In a warehouse converted into a disaster shelter, hundreds of people are living out of backpacks and duffel bags while they wait for President Hugo Chavez to come through on his promises of new homes. They are among tens of thousands of Venezuelans driven from their homes by torrential rains and landslides that destroyed some of Caracas' hillside slums more than two months ago.

Sharing a bottom bunk bed with her 6-year-old daughter is starting to wear on 33-year-old Rosario Cerrada.

"We don't really know how long we're going to be here. I have no idea. Some people say 18 months, others say 16 months," Cerrada said, keeping watch over a 3-month-old daughter sleeping in a crib. "It's really very uncomfortable waiting so long to get out of here."

The floods and mudslides of November and December exacerbated Venezuela's already severe shortage of affordable housing.

Chavez, who is criticized by opponents for failing to address the issue during 12 years in power, is now trying to turn

a monumental challenge into a political opportunity promising to accelerate construction projects and finish 150,000 new homes this year.

His success or failure is likely to affect support for his 2012 re-election bid. His new focus on housing is also allowing Chavez to return to one of his time-tested political strategies: creating expectations among the poor to energize his base, just as problems from 28-percent inflation to violent crime have been taking a toll on his popularity.

Dozens of shelters in Caracas have been hurriedly set



President Hugo Chavez

up in an abandoned downtown high-rise, a former auto dealership, government office buildings and a newly-built shopping mall that was expropriated by the government before it opened for business. In a symbolic gesture, Chavez opened up some areas of his presidential palace for disaster victims. He has also promised

that if re-elected, he will build 2 million homes in the next six years.

"You can rest assured that we will achieve the goal of giving a decent home to every Venezuelan family," Chavez said in a televised speech earlier this month.

Chavez has his work cut out for him. □

Palm Beach boasts authentic Mediterranean cuisine



By ARUBA TODAY

PALM BEACH -- When we say Mediterranean cuisine, we mean the food from the adjacent nation-states sharing the shores of the Mediterranean, embracing many cultures and influenced by varied customs.

At Casa Tua Mediterranee, the menu offers a trip around that sunshiny, lively part of the world, without ever having to buy an airline ticket, starting at the Atlantic and traveling traverse Europe to Turkey, on to the Middle East and North Africa.

We discovered that the chefs choose the best, most delicious dishes from France, Italy, Greece, and Tunisia, and paired them with most famous Middle-Eastern appetizers and salads to present a formidable culinary trip around the Mediterranean Sea, enjoyed in the contemporary indoor dining room which includes a cozy lounge area or on the dining terrace overlooking the action at the new bustling Palm Beach Plaza.

Spanokopitakia, brick oven baked filo pastries filled with Greek cheese and spinach, famous Tzaziki, a yogurt and cucumber dip, and popular Babaganoush and Hummus, with authentic pita bread, are some of the most popular

appetizers.

For main courses our traditional Moussaka is justly called, the best you will ever have, and the genuine Tunisian Couscous, loaded with merguez, chicken and lamb, is rivaled only by the Tenderloin, Lamb and Chicken kebabs. Casa Tua pays homage to



provincial cooking with our Grilled Whole Red Snapper, flavored with herbs de Provence, and our Mussels, taste the way they're served in the port of Marseille. Our thin crust Italian Pizza, needs no introduction, as it has earned a huge following in both the other restaurants, Casa Tua Pizzeria and Casa Tua Barcelona.

To top off the authentic Mediterranean feast, the Oriental belly dancers entertain every night and you may complement the exotic evening with a flavored hookah pipe and endless new st le cocktails featuring Strawberry Field Mojito, and Bubble Royal Champagne Martin. Casa Tua is your-home-in-Aruba, a perfect spot for people who love to live, and love to eat and party.

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Dinnershow D'Licious at Zissles Enters New Era

PASEO HERENCIA - The stage at the beautiful new venue in Palm Beach, Zissles, is about to premier a new musical block in it's highly acclaimed musical production D'Licious. This new block features all latin music and even a festive carnival piece from Aruba's very own "Aruba Dushi Band".

Zissles has brought in one of the island's best choreographers, Alydia Wever, to work with the entire cast of talented actors, singers and dancers.

This show was originally only scheduled to run through January, but after an incredible response, more dates have been added. The storyline of D'Licious is that of following dreams.

The cast takes the audience through this theme by way of musical blocks. These segments feature some of the all time greatest music

hits, sung live by magnificent voices. There's a spectacular light show which spotlights the synchronized stylish moves of the dancers. Pure, real energy entertainment from the very first beat of the overture.

In addition to the D'Licious Dinnershow ticket packages, which include a finer dining 3 course dinner with the show, Zissles introduces a Tapas and Ticket package, even friendlier on the wallet. Doors open at 7pm, dinner service begins at 7:30. D'Licious show onstage at 8pm, show runs approx 90 minutes.

After D'Licious show, the stage transforms into the Dueling PianoZ show until closing time. Zissles is located at Paseo Herencia Mall, right next to the cinemas.

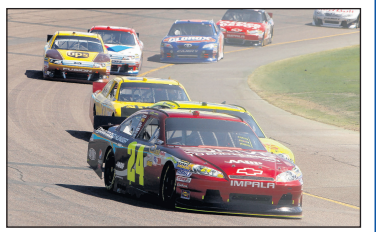
For more information, go to www.zissles.com or call 586-3800. □



Gordon ends winless streak at 66 races

Jeff Gordon (24) drives into the fourth turn during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Phoenix International Raceway on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in Avondale, Ariz.

Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Monday, February 28, 2011

England steals headlines from Tendulkar



India's Sachin Tendulkar celebrates his century in the Cricket World Cup Group A match between England and India in Bangalore, India, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011.

Associated Press

GERALD IMRAY

AP Sports Writer

NEW DELHI (AP) — England and Andrew Strauss did the unthinkable and stole the headlines from a Sachin Tendulkar century in a World Cup game in India as the high-profile clash in Bangalore ended in a thrilling tie on Sunday.

The teams served up one of the best games of any World Cup as Strauss bettered Tendulkar's sparkling innings and England matched India's daunting 338 with a scurried single off the final ball by Graeme Swann.

The pulsating finish in Group B was only the fourth tie in World Cup history and brought the 2011 event roaring to life in front of 50,000 disbelieving people at Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Fans could hardly have asked for a better batting effort than Tendulkar's sublime 120, but Strauss replied in stunning fashion with an ODI career-best 158.

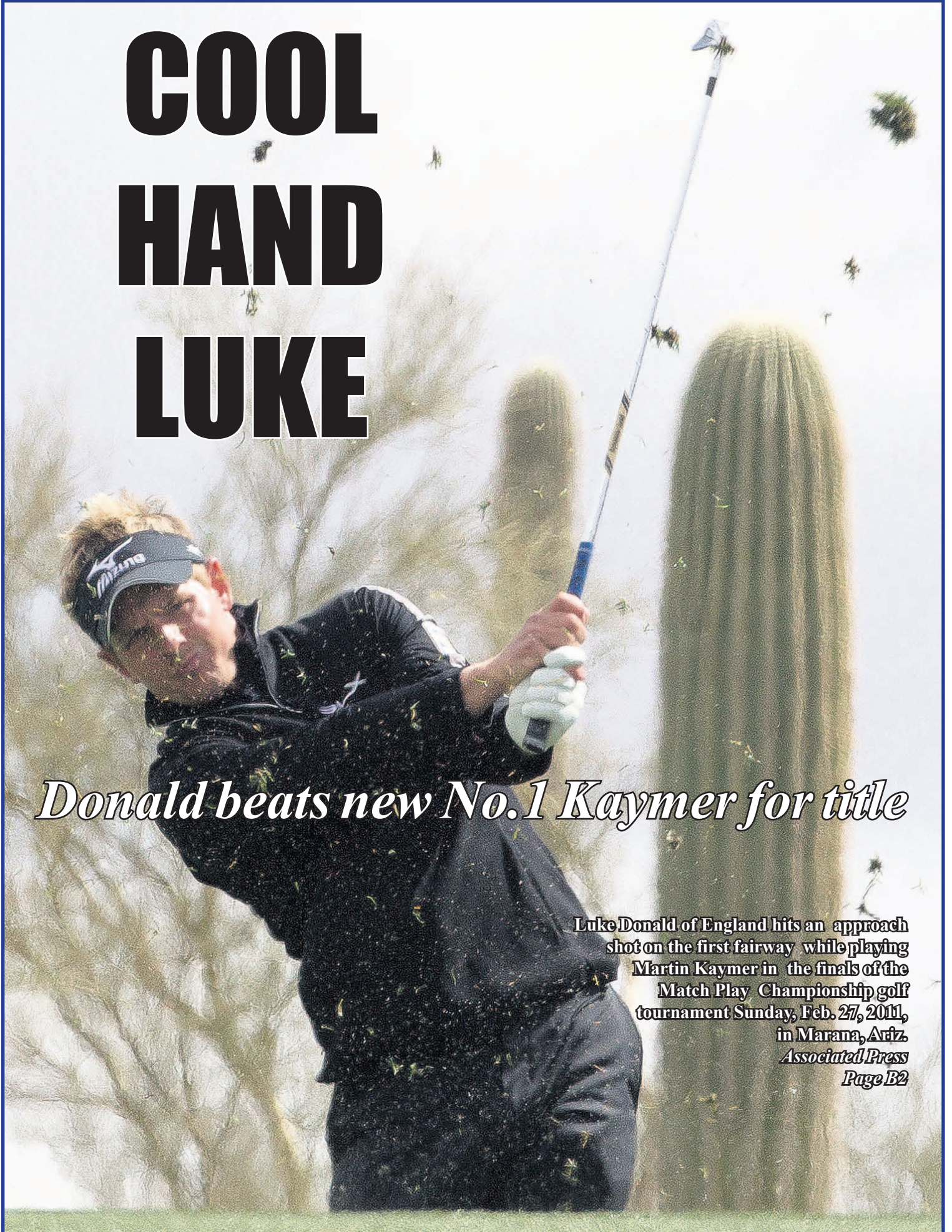
Continued on Page B6

COOL HAND LUKE

Donald beats new No.1 Kaymer for title

Luke Donald of England hits an approach shot on the first fairway while playing Martin Kaymer in the finals of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press
Page B2



Donald wins first World Golf Championship



Luke Donald of England holds up the Walter Hagen trophy after defeating Martin Kaymer of Germany 3 and 2 in the finals of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Ariz. — Luke Donald spoiled Martin Kaymer's rise to No. 1 in the world by winning the Match Play Championship on Sunday with a performance so dominant he never played the 18th hole all week. Not even the snow and

sleet could stop Donald. On a bizarre final day in the high desert, which began with snow covering the fairways, Donald pulled ahead for good with a birdie on the par-5 11th and a par on the next hole, eventually closing out Kaymer on No. 16 for a 3-and-2 victory. The consolation prize for

Kaymer is going to No. 1 in the career, which he assured by reaching the championship match. Donald was in more dire need of this trophy, however. It was his first win in America in five years, and it was only his second win worldwide since he captured the 2006 Honda Classic. The 33-year-old Englishman had done just about everything right except win. He took care of that in a week like no other in the 13-year history of the Accenture Match Play Championship. Donald played only 89 holes in six matches and never trailed in any of them. In fact, he led after 81 of those holes. "It feels amazing," Donald said. "I had a bit of a monkey on my back. I hadn't won in the U.S. in five years." Donald won his first World Golf Championship, and became the second player from England to capture the Match Play Championship. He goes to a career-best No. 3 in the world to continue a European resurgence in the ranking.

The next world ranking will be Kaymer, Lee Westwood, Donald and Graeme McDowell. It's the first time since March 15, 1992, that the top four spots have been occupied by Europeans. Matt Kuchar defeated Bubba Watson in the consolation match and will go to No. 10 in the world. This Match Play Championship will stand out for reasons beyond golf. A late winter storm dusted Dove Mountain with nearly an inch of snow, and the fairways were blankets of white in the morning. Donald looked out his hotel room and suggested on Twitter that a snowball fight determine who had honors on the first tee. The snow had melted when they teed off, although dark clouds on the horizon loomed. Sleet began falling when the championship match reached the third green, and play was stopped when sleet covered the fourth fairway. "Do we have to keep playing?" Kaymer asked chief

referee Mark Russell. Kaymer, who purchased a snood to wear around his neck, pulled it up over his mouth and looked like a real Western gunslinger (except for the pattern of flies on fish hooks). Donald took out his blue-and-white umbrella and crouched beneath it. After about 10 minutes, when the fairways turned from white back to green, play resumed. Donald seized on the moment. Already 1 up from his 18-foot birdie on the par-5 second, he watched Kaymer hit a fade over the bunker to about 7 feet, then answered with a shot into 2 feet for a conceded birdie. Kaymer missed, and Donald was 2 up. On the next hole, Kaymer pulled his drive into the desert and fell another hole down. Donald three-putted for bogey from below the ridge to lose his first hole, and Kaymer squared the match at the turn with a birdie on the eighth and a bogey on No. 9, where Donald hit his approach into a desert bush and had to return to his original spot in the fairway. □

Webb wins HSBC Women's Champions by one stroke

ALEX KENNEDY

Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Australia's Karrie Webb used four straight birdies on the back nine Sunday to surge past Japan's Chie Arimura for a one-shot victory at the HSBC Women's Champions. The 36-year-old Webb finished with a 3-under 69 for a 13-under total of 275 at Singapore's Tanah Merah Country Club for her 37th career LPGA tour win. "I'm one ahead of my age," Webb said. "I kicked it in on the back nine. I got it done and it feels great." Webb, who took home a winner's check of \$210,000, was three strokes behind Arimura after a bogey on the 10th. But she started her string of birdies on the next hole to grab a lead she would never relinquish. Arimura (71) had led from the first round and had a



Karrie Webb of Australia celebrates after winning the HSBC Women's Champions Golf tournament, Sunday Feb. 27, 2011 in Singapore.

Associated Press

one-stroke advantage over Webb going into the final round. The 23-year-old Arimura, who has seven Japan LPGA victories, has yet to win an LPGA tournament.

"I'm disappointed with the result, but I played a pretty good round today, so I'm happy," Arimura said. "Karrie is really smart and very calm and really a good player." □

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Lockout could leave NFL rookies with big challenge

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Florida defensive back Ahmad Black would prefer to focus on football. Instead, he's getting a crash course in labor negotiations, lockout rules, even the possible implementation of a rookie wage scale.

These new obstacles are threatening to make the transition from college football to the NFL more complicated than usual, even if the players don't want to admit it.

"Hey, it's better than doing it for free," Black said Sunday at the NFL's annual scouting combine. "I'm going to get a little bit of something (in a contract)." Black, like most of the 329 draft prospects in Indianapolis this weekend, is trying to stay away from the discussion that has overshadowed one of the league's biggest and busiest offseason events.

Normally, the discussion in Indy centers on 40-yard dash times and bench press repeti-

tions.

This year, the showcase has expanded to multiple venues. There's been a steady stream of meetings in hotel hallways, at the convention center, even at the Colts' complex. Everyone from owners to coaches to agents have been briefed about negotiations that could avert the looming lockout, which could begin Friday.

And the potential draft picks find themselves caught in the middle. If the expected lockout begins, teams will be prohibited from communicating with veterans or negotiating player contracts. Free agency will be put on hold and teams cannot cut players from their current rosters. Rookies, however, will still have their regularly scheduled pro days, still be able to interview with team officials and still get picked in April's draft.

That's when the landscape changes for the rookies.

They will not be able to negotiate deals until a new CBA is in place, and, perhaps more

importantly, will not be allowed to get playbooks, go through the usual minicamps or the team's offseason workouts. Some analysts suggest it's enough to make this a lost draft class. NFL officials disagree. "It's difficult being a rookie as it is," Kansas City Chiefs general manager Scott Pioli said.

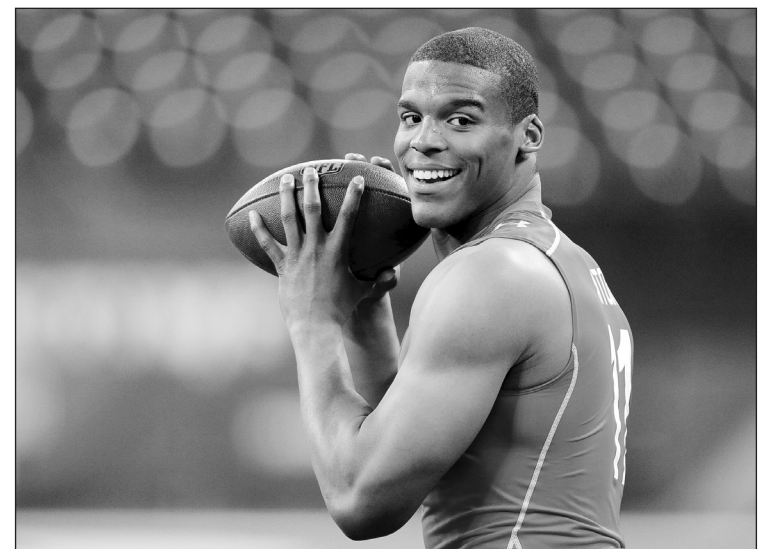
"I think it's really up to the individual. They're all at different points, but they're going to have to develop. If it's going to be an issue, though, it's going to be an issue for everybody."

That's not necessarily what the players want to hear.

"I don't think it would set us back," Miami cornerback DeMarcus Van Dyke said. "It would make us hungrier when we get into camp. It will probably cut down all the long contracts and just get guys right into camp."

But it could affect how much of an impact the rookies make next season.

Without a playbook and mini-



Auburn quarterback Cam Newton laughs as he drops back to throw as he runs a drill at the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011.

camps, the learning curve likely will get steeper. And history has shown how tough it can be.

Rob Morris, the Colts' first-round pick in 2000, often said his rookie holdout stunted his development. Former Ohio State running back Maurice

Clarett didn't even make the Denver roster after missing two college seasons, and former Southern California receiver Mike Williams, another former first-round pick, had only 44 catches in his first three NFL seasons after sitting out the 2004 season. □

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Riesch wins women's World Cup super-G

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

ARE, Sweden (AP) — Maria Riesch of Germany beat Lindsey Vonn by one hundredth of a second to win a World Cup super-G race on Sunday and extend her overall lead over her American rival.

Vonn watched at the bottom of the Olympia course in the Swedish resort of Are as Riesch flew over the final jump, then gave a wry smile as Riesch clinched victory. Riesch pumped her fist in delight and let out a loud yell.

"I'm also really happy that I can be back on the top of the podium in super-G as well. My last win in super-G (was) three years ago," Riesch said. "I was having a hard time in-between in super-G. Finally

I'm back and ready to win the speed events. That's good."

Vonn, who won Saturday's downhill for her 40th World Cup race win, was frustrated at missing out by such a small margin. "I thought I skied a good race. I was happy with my run and unfortunately I lost by one hundredth of a second, which is a snap of your finger," Vonn said. "That's life." Riesch won in 1 minute, 13.24 seconds for her sixth race win of the season. It was her first of the season in super-G and the 26-year-old has now won races in four different disciplines this season.

"It's definitely frustrating, especially at this time of the year, with the overall World Cup so tight," Vonn said. "One hundredth (costs you) twenty



Germany's Maria Riesch, center, celebrates on the podium after winning an alpine ski, women's World Cup super G, flanked by second placed Lindsey Vonn, left, and third placed Julia Mancuso, both of U.S., in Are, Sweden, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011.

Associated Press

points. It would have been great if we could have just tied." "I mean, one hundredth is nothing," she added. "You can find it from any place, whether it's pushing out from the start or reaching out for the finish line a bit more."

Julia Mancuso of the United States was .79 back in third

place ahead of Austria's Nicole Hosp, who was .81 behind Riesch.

"It was tough light, but it was like that for everyone so it wasn't a surprise," Mancuso said. "My race was OK. I definitely made a couple of mistakes but this time it was on the right side of the hundredths, so

I was lucky for that."

Riesch won Friday's super-combined and finished third in Saturday's downhill.

Vonn was racing for the first time since withdrawing from the latter part of the world championships because of a concussion in pre-competition training. Riesch, who was third in super-G at the worlds, now leads Vonn in the overall standings by 196 points as she closes in on her first overall title. "I didn't expect (to) make up points in Are. I was hoping that I wasn't losing too much," Riesch said. "Now I am more ahead than before Are, so this is really good for me. I will try and keep this performance until the end of the season and hopefully it's enough for the big globe, finally."

Riesch will look to extend her lead in Italy next weekend where once again there will be a super-combi — this time with a downhill leg, rather than a super-G — a downhill race and a super-G over three days in Tarvisio.

"It's a good advantage now but there (are) still nine races to go, and lots of things can happen," Riesch said.

But the 26-year-old Vonn is realistic enough to know the overall title is now Riesch's to lose. "I'm not counting myself out, but it's looking pretty good for Maria for the overall," said Vonn, who lost ground by finishing sixth in Friday's super-combi. "She knows that and I know that." □

Mario Matt wins World Cup slalom race



Austria's Mario Matt celebrates in the finish area after winning an alpine ski, men's World Cup slalom, in Bansko, Bulgaria, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011.

Associated Press

VESELIN TOSHKOV

Associated Press

BANSKO, Bulgaria (AP) — Austrian veteran Mario Matt protected his lead from the first run to win a men's slalom race Sunday for his first World Cup victory in nearly two years.

Matt held a narrow lead over Reinfried Herbst after the first leg and clocked 1 minute, 50.35 seconds to hold off his fellow Austrian

by 0.04 seconds.

"I can't describe how I feel, very happy, I guess," said the skier from Tyrol known as "Super Mario" after his 13th World Cup win. "After all those very tough competitions this year, I feel proud with what I did here. All through the second run I had a terrific feeling that this is my day."

Matt is a two-time slalom world champion, but had not

won a World Cup race since March 2009.

The Austrians had reason to celebrate in Bansko after their team's failure at the worlds.

Defending slalom World Cup champion Herbst said he started the race without any expectations.

"I put too much pressure on myself and after the worlds I told myself another season was starting. I just tried to have fun and enjoy the sunshine here and it paid off," he said.

World champion Jean-Baptiste Grange of France climbed from seventh to third, finishing 0.48 back.

"I am a bit disappointed of my run because I did some minor mistakes. I feel a bit tired after Garmish Partenkirchen, but it's OK, I won some points today," Grange said.

World Cup overall and slalom leader Ivica Kostelic skied out in the first leg, failing to finish a slalom for the first

time in more than a year.

Germany's Felix Neureuther was fourth and Michael Janyk of Canada was fifth.

United States Olympian Nolan Kasper produced the best alpine World Cup result of his young career with a 10th-place finish, moving up from 16th after the first run.

"It was good, it was sunny and the snow was a lot better than I thought it would be," the 21-year-old Kasper said.

"I had a better start than I've had in the past because I was in the top 30 for today. It was a pretty easy hill and course so you really had to be gunning from the get go. I just tried to make as little mistakes as possible and go fast."

His teammate, giant slalom world champion Ted Ligety was 17th.

The men's tour now moves to Slovenia. Ligety has won the giant slalom in Kranjska Gora the last three consecutive seasons. □

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Gordon ends winless streak at 66 races

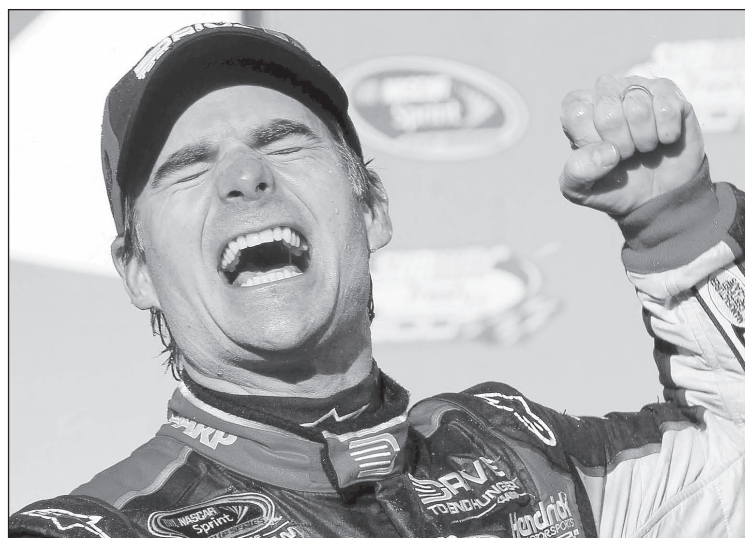
JOHN MARSHALL

AP Sports Writer

AVONDALE, Arizona (AP) — Jeff Gordon passed Kyle Busch with eight laps left and stretched his lead from there at Phoenix International Raceway on Sunday, ending his winless streak at 66 races. PIR has been the place to end long streaks lately. Ryan Newman ended a 77-race winless streak at PIR in the autumn and Carl Edwards stopped his run at 70 races without a win. Gordon, who started 20th, was knocked into the wall by Edwards, had to pull behind another car to shake a piece of debris from his grill and avoided a massive wreck that led to a 14-minute red flag. He still managed to lead the most laps and was able to pull alongside then bump Busch out of the way late to win for the first time since April 2009 at Texas.

It was Gordon's 83rd career victory, drawing him level with Cale Yarborough for fifth all-time. Busch held on for second, falling just short of winning all three NASCAR races in the same weekend for the second time in his career. Jimmie Johnson, Kevin Harvick and Ryan Newman rounded out the top five in a 312-lap race around PIR's mile oval, the last on the current surface. PIR will undergo a \$10 million repaving and reconfiguration project before the fall race, a move that isn't popular with many of the drivers. The old bump-and-crack-filled surface held up well in its final weekend with a flurry of records. Clint Bowyer set the qualifying mark in trucks on Friday, then Busch did it in Nationwide on Saturday. Edwards set a new Sprint

Cup qualifying record at the track, hitting 137.279 mph to barely edge Kurt Busch on a day when 15 drivers eclipsed the previous record set by Edwards in the fall. Conditions were a little different for Sunday's race. A big storm came through the Valley of the Sun overnight, leaving a dusting of snow on the mountains above the track and washing away all the rubber that had built up on the track the previous two days. That meant a change in set-ups for all the teams, more grip for the tires and, fitting for the way the weekend went, more speed. And it seemed the extra speed was hard to handle, leading to numerous early cautions, including one that took out Daytona 500 winner Trevor Bayne. Edwards never got much of a chance to make it two straight wins at PIR. □



Jeff Gordon celebrates his win in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Phoenix International Raceway on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in Avondale, Ariz. Associated Press

Del Potro wins first title since 2009 U.S. Open

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (AP) — Juan Martin del Potro won his first title in his first final since winning the 2009 U.S. Open, beating Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic 6-4, 6-4 at the Delray Beach championships on Sunday. Del Potro, on the comeback trail after missing most of last season with a wrist injury, looked fatigued throughout the match, but the Argentine willed himself to victory over

the erratic Tipsarevic. Tipsarevic was looking to win his first title in three career finals. At the beginning of the match, Tipsarevic raced to a 4-1 lead. Del Potro was looking flat until then and couldn't find any range on his trademark forehand. Tipsarevic played a poor seventh service game to hand del Potro back the break, which turned the match in his favor. □



Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina reacts after defeating Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia 6-4, 6-4 to win the Delray Beach International Tennis Championships in Delray Beach, Fla., Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011. Associated Press

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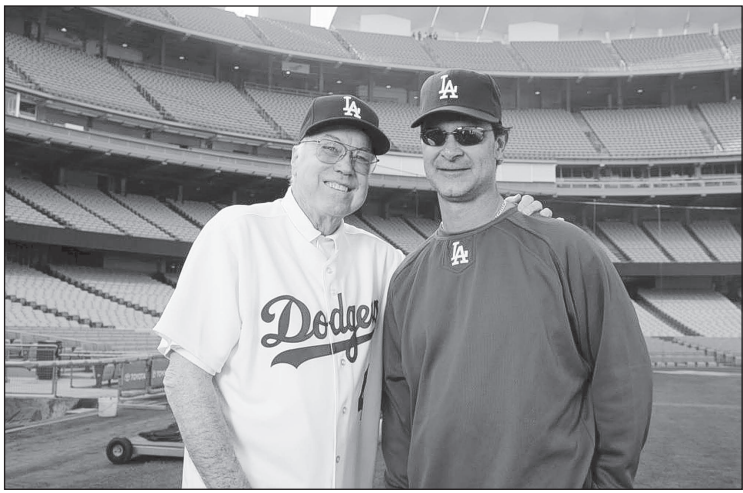
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In a photo provided by the Los Angeles Dodgers, former Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodger Duke Snider poses with Don Mattingly at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles in this recent but undated photo. Snider, 84, died early Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, of what the family called natural causes at the Valle Vista Convalescent Hospital in Escondido, Calif.

BEN WALKER AP Baseball Writer

Duke Snider, the Hall of Fame center fielder for the charmed “Boys of Summer” who helped the Dodgers bring their elusive and only World Series crown to Brooklyn, died early Sunday of what his family called natural causes. He was 84. Snider died at the Valle Vista Convalescent Hospital in Escondido, California, according to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, which announced the death on

Associated Press
behalf of the family.

“The Duke of Flatbush” hit .295 with 407 career home runs, played in the World Series six times and won two titles. But the eight-time All-Star was defined by much more than his stats — he was, after all, part of the love affair between the borough of Brooklyn and “Dem Bums” who lived in the local neighborhoods.

Snider wore No. 4 in Dodger blue, and was often regarded as the third-best center fielder in New York — behind Willie

Hall of Fame center fielder Duke Snider dies at 84

Mays of the Giants and Mickey Mantle of the Yankees — during what many fans considered the city’s golden era of baseball.

“The newspapers compared Willie, Mickey and I, and that was their thing,” Snider said several years ago. “As a team, we competed with the Giants, and we faced the Yankees in the World Series. So we had a rivalry as a team, that was it. It was an honor to be compared to them, they were both great players.”

Mantle died in 1995 at age 63. Mays, now 79, threw out a ceremonial ball last fall before a playoff game in San Francisco. Snider hit at least 40 home runs in five straight seasons and led the NL in total bases three times. He never won an MVP award, although a voting error may have cost him the prize in 1955. He lost to Campanella by a very narrow margin — it later turned out an ill voter left Snider off the ballot, supposedly by mistake.

Snider hit .309 with 42 home runs and a career-high 136 RBIs in 1955. That October, he hit four homers, drove in seven runs and hit .320 as the Dodgers beat the Yankees in a seven-game World Series.

For a team that kept preaching “Wait till next year” after Series losses to the Yankees in 1953, 1952, 1949, 1947 and 1941, it had indeed become next year.

Born Edwin Donald Snider, he got his nickname at an early age. Noticing his son return home from a game with somewhat of a strut, Snider’s dad said, “Here comes the Duke.” The name stuck. So did Snider, once he played his first game in the majors in 1947, two days after Jackie Robinson’s historic debut.

A durable slugger with a strong arm, good instincts on the bases and a regal style, Snider hit the last home run at Ebbets Field in 1957.

Snider’s swing gave the Dodgers a lefty presence on

a team of mostly righties. He often launched shots over the short right-field wall at the Brooklyn bandbox, rewarding a waiting throng that gathered on Bedford Avenue.

Snider stayed with the Dodgers when they moved to Los Angeles in 1958 and won another World Series ring the next year. Prematurely gray, “The Silver Fox” returned to New York with the bumbling Mets in 1963 and finished his career in 1964 with the San Francisco Giants, the Dodgers’ longtime rivals.

Snider was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1980 on his 11th try.

In 1995, Snider pleaded guilty to federal tax charges and was sentenced to two years’ probation and fined \$5,000. He admitted not reporting more than \$97,000 in cash from autograph signings, card shows and memorabilia sales.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly, whom he married in 1947. □

TENDULKAR

Continued from Page B1

The England captain had India’s home crowd both delighted and devastated as his brilliant 145 ball-effort inspired his team to 338-8 off their 50 overs and, incredibly, a share of the spoils.

“In some ways we’re happy, in some ways we’re distraught,” Strauss said, “but a great game of cricket.”

Although it will probably do little to affect either country’s chances of reaching the quarterfinals, it will provide a timely warning to India of its bowling frailties.

Here, England proved that the co-host may need a little more than the world’s most powerful batting lineup if it is to end a near-30-year wait for a World Cup triumph.

Among a host of records, Tendulkar became the first man to score five centuries at the World Cup, Strauss hit the highest World Cup score by an Englishman and the game provided the highest run aggregate — 676 — in a World

Cup match, bettering the 671 runs Australia and South Africa produced in 2007.

Above all, it was World Cup cricket at its dramatic best as Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh (58) and Gautam Gambhir (51) put India well ahead before Strauss and Ian Bell (69) hit back with a 170-run stand.

The game seesawed again when fast bowler Zaheer Khan removed both dangermen, in successive balls, before a flurry of sixes from tailenders Swann, Tim Bresnan and Ajmal Shahzad set up the chance for England to scramble a tie off the very last ball.

Swann poked it to the offside and raced down to the other end.

Unaware of what the game had in store, the crowd had earlier celebrated another record in a seemingly eternal list of milestones for the 37-year-old Tendulkar, whose hundred moved him ahead of Ricky Ponting, Mark Waugh and Sourav Ganguly in the list of World Cup century makers.

Tendulkar reached three fig-



Indian and England’s players shake hands as their cricket World Cup match ends in a tie in Bangalore, India, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011.

ures with an effortless flick to fine leg for four off Bresnan (5-48), then raised his bat to acknowledge 100 for the 47th time in one-day internationals — also a record.

The only achievement missing for India’s batting master, now in his sixth World Cup, is a World Cup title.

As India hit a setback in its

bid to claim the crown for the first time since 1983, fierce rival Pakistan was playing up its chances a day after an 11-run win over much-fancied Sri Lanka in Colombo.

Saturday’s victory for a team burdened by recent off-field controversies led captain Shahid Afridi to pronounce that Pakistan should “definitely”

be considered among the favorites now.

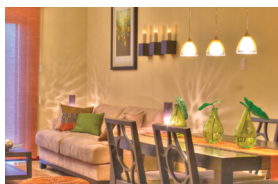
In New Delhi, contender South Africa’s progress — simple enough on the pitch so far — was complicated by a lengthy sick list as the squad returned to full training after a seven-wicket win over West Indies. □

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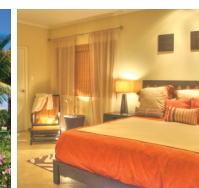
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Mass. company making diesel with sun, water, CO2

By JAY LINDSAY

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — A Massachusetts biotechnology company says it can produce the fuel that runs Jaguars and jet engines using the same ingredients that make grass grow.

Joule Unlimited has invented a genetically-engineered organism that it says simply secretes diesel fuel or ethanol wherever it finds sunlight, water and carbon dioxide.

The Cambridge, Mass.-based company says it can manipulate the organism to produce the renewable fuels on demand at unprecedented rates, and can do it in facilities large and small at costs comparable to the cheapest fossil fuels.

What can it mean? No less than “energy independence,” Joule’s web site tells the world, even if the world’s not quite convinced.

“We make some lofty claims, all of which we believe, all of which we’ve validated, all of which we’ve shown to investors,” said Joule chief executive Bill Sims.

“If we’re half right, this revolutionizes the world’s largest industry, which is the oil and gas industry,” he said. “And if we’re right, there’s no rea-

son why this technology can’t change the world.”

The doing, though, isn’t quite done, and there’s skepticism Joule can live up to its promises.

National Renewable Energy Laboratory scientist Philip Pienkos said Joule’s technology is exciting but unproven, and their claims of efficiency are undercut by difficulties they could have just collecting the fuel their organism is producing.

Timothy Donohue, director of the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, says Joule must demonstrate its technology on a broad scale.

Perhaps it can work, but “the four letter word that’s the biggest stumbling block is whether it ‘will’ work,” Donohue said.

“There are really good ideas that fail during scale up.”

Sims said he knows “there’s always skeptics for breakthrough technologies.”

“And they can ride home on their horse and use their abacus to calculate their check-book balance,” he said.

Joule was founded in 2007. In the last year, it’s roughly doubled its employees to 70,

closed a \$30 million second round of private funding in April and added John Podesta, former White House chief of staff under President Bill Clinton, to its board of directors.

The company worked in “stealth mode” for a couple years before it recently began revealing more about what it was doing, including with a patent last year for its production of diesel molecules from its cyanobacterium. This month, it released a peer-reviewed paper it says backs its claims.

Work to create fuel from solar energy has been done for decades, such as by making ethanol from corn or extracting fuel from algae. But Joule says they’ve eliminated the middleman that makes producing biofuels on a large scale so costly.

That middleman is the “biomass,” such as the untold tons of corn or algae that must be grown, harvested and destroyed to extract a fuel that still must be treated and refined to be used. Joule says its organisms secrete a completed product, already identical to ethanol and the components of diesel fuel, then live on to



This Oct. 26, 2010 photograph provided by Joule Unlimited shows the company’s ethanol and diesel production testing facility in Leander, Texas, where arrays of bacteria gather sunlight and carbon dioxide and convert them to fuel.

Associated Press

keep producing it at remarkable rates.

Joule claims, for instance, that its cyanobacterium can produce 15,000 gallons of diesel full per acre annually, over four times more than the most efficient algal process for making fuel. And they say they can do it at \$30 a barrel.

A key for Joule is the cyanobacterium it chose, which is found everywhere and is less complex than algae, so it’s easier to genetically manipulate, said biologist Dan Robertson, Joule’s top scientist.

The organisms are engineered to take in sunlight and carbon dioxide, then produce and se-

crete ethanol or hydrocarbons — the basis of various fuels, such as diesel — as a byproduct of photosynthesis.

The company envisions building facilities near power plants and consuming their waste carbon dioxide, so their cyanobacteria can reduce carbon emissions while they’re at it.

The flat, solar-panel style “bioreactors” that house the cyanobacterium are modules, meaning they can build arrays at facilities as large or small as land allows, the company says. The thin, grooved panels are designed for maximum light absorption, and also so Joule can efficiently collect the fuel the bacteria secrete. □

Nintendo 3-D handheld goes on sale in Japan



YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Nintendo’s latest game machine, offering glasses-free 3-D images, went on sale in Japan on Saturday ahead of a global rollout, and analysts say it promises to be the world’s first 3-D mass-market product. “I’m so excited,” said 9-year-old Natsumi Miyasaka, clutching her brand new blue 3DS portable that her father bought for her. Lines formed outside Tokyo electronics stores, although they weren’t as long as some previous gadget launches, as Nintendo offered purchase reservations in advance. The Nintendo 3DS, which costs 25,000 yen (\$300) in Japan, goes on sale in Europe on March 25 for 250 euros, and arrives in the U.S. on March 27 for \$250. Kyoto-based Nintendo Co. is banking on the 3-D technology as sales momentum gradually fades for earlier hits such as the Wii home console and predecessor DS models. Nintendo expects to sell 4 million of the 3DS machines through the end of March — 1.5 million in Japan and the rest overseas. The company is expected to have no problems meeting that target. “It is the most comprehensive handheld gaming device from Nintendo to date, with high-quality graphics and on-

line features,” said Hiroshi Kamide, an analyst with J.P. Morgan in Tokyo. “I believe the 3DS will be the first mass-market 3-D device.” While 3-D technology for TVs has created a buzz, and 3-D camcorders are also gaining some attention, such products have not sold in big numbers so far, making for a tiny fraction of overall TV and camcorder sales. So selling 4 million 3DS machines in a month would be significant for a 3-D product. The 3DS looks much like older DS machines, and has two panels. The top panel shows 3-D imagery, giving players an illusion of virtual reality, such as a puppy licking the screen from inside the machine. The bottom screen is a touch panel. The device also comes with three cameras, and allows the user to take 3-D photos. It doesn’t require the special glasses needed for 3-D theater movies or 3-D game consoles like rival Sony Corp.’s PlayStation 3. They also don’t require 3-D TV sets. Sony is promising a new handheld code-named NGP later this year, but has yet to give pricing and the machine does not offer 3-D gaming. On the downside are growing fears about the health effects of too much 3-D. Some people have gotten sick by watching 3-D movies or playing 3-D

games. Nintendo has issued a warning that the 3DS could harm the eyesight of children 6 or younger, recommending they play in 2-D. It also says users should stop playing if they become tired or start to feel ill. Although more game software is expected to be ready by the Europe and U.S. launch dates, only eight games were ready for the Japan launch. But the machine comes with several built-in games and other features. Such drawbacks didn’t faze Toyohisa Ishihara, a 43-year-old engineer, who stood in line for two hours to get his 3DS. “The images seem to pop out. There is a sense of a world spreading beyond,” he said. “I can’t wait to play it.” Compared to Westerners, Japanese are expected to use 3DS for networking, creating avatars, listening to music and other lifestyle enjoyment, rather than just for games — partly because of their long daily train commutes. “The 3DS is moving in on the territory typically held by Apple products,” said Ricardo Torres, editor-in-chief of GameSpot, an online gaming review site. “I expect Nintendo to sell 3DS as fast as they can get them into stores.” □



Libyan chaos stirs global panic over oil supplies



A Libyan oil worker walks in front of a refinery inside the Brega oil complex, in Brega east of Libya, on Saturday Feb. 26, 2011. Production at Brega has dropped by almost 90 percent amid the country’s crisis because many employees have fled and few ships are coming to offload the product.

Associated Press

ALAN CLENDENNING
AP Business Writer
MADRID (AP) — Libya’s oil industry is in chaos — and there’s no telling when that will end. Armed men loot equipment from oil field installations. British and German commandos execute secret raids in the Libyan desert to rescue stranded oil workers as security disintegrates rapidly in remote camps. Libyan port workers, frightened of being caught up in Moammar Gadhafi’s violent crackdown on protesters, fail to show up for work, leaving empty tankers floating around the Mediterranean Sea waiting to load crude. And the European oil companies extracting Libya’s black gold are operating in crisis mode, trying to get stranded expatriate workers out and safe amid conflicting information on how much oil is still being pumped and just where it all is. That was just this week. The situation is not expected to get better

in the near future. No one knows whether Gadhafi or the rebels trying to oust him will end up controlling Africa’s biggest oil reserves. Fears abound that Libya could turn into a fractured nation with competing armed groups ruling over rich and remote desert fields lying hundreds of miles apart from each other. The chaos in Libya as it descends into virtual civil war has sent international oil prices skyrocketing despite a pledge from Saudi Arabia, the world’s largest oil exporter, to ramp up exports. And that volatility is likely to continue, because it could take weeks or even months for Libyan production and exports to return to normal levels, experts said. That has sent already over-caFFEinated oil traders into a frenzy that won’t calm down until there’s more clarity about what is happening on the ground in Libya. The International Energy Agency reported late Friday that Libya is probably still producing about 850,000 barrels of oil daily, down from its normal capacity of 1.6 million barrels — but acknowledged the estimate is based on “incomplete, conflicting information.” Libya produces just under 2 percent of the world’s oil, but its customers are overwhelmingly European. Hardest hit by the sudden oil shortage are European refiners that receive 85 percent of Libya’s exports, turning the country’s highly valued crude into diesel and jet fuel. The biggest buyers are Italy, France, Germany and Spain — and Spain is so concerned it announced Friday that highway speed limits will be reduced in March in a desperate bid to cut fuel consumption. The biggest problem facing oil companies and European consumers who depend on Libyan oil is a near-complete breakdown in solid information. Phones in Libya rarely work, Internet is intermittent, workers are fleeing and looters are grabbing what they can or pose a threat until order is restored. While British military planes staged a daring desert rescue Saturday of 150 oil workers, hundreds of other workers were heading across the Sahara Desert in bus convoys toward the Egyptian border — a grueling trip. □

China lowers its economic growth target a tad

CHARLES HUTZLER
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China is slightly lowering its annual economic growth target, to 7 percent from 8 percent, the premier said Sunday, in a move that signals a shift in government priorities to put the breakneck economy on a more sustainable footing. The tweak to the growth rate, announced by Premier Wen Jiabao in an online chat with Chinese citizens, is largely symbolic. Economic growth has exceeded the 8 percent target each of the past six years that it has been a fixture of government plans. Last year, growth reached 10.3 percent, making China the world’s fastest-expanding major economy. Along with the growth, however, inflation has picked up, especially for food and housing. Economists and senior Chinese officials have said for months that Beijing must downshift the economy to help tame prices and move toward growth that is driven more by consumer spending than by the hefty investment and bank lending that fueled the latest spurt. The questions selected for the premier’s well-orchestrated online chat highlighted popular concerns about inflation and home prices — prob-



In this photo released by China’s Xinhua news agency, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, left, prepares to hold an online chat with Internet users at two state news portals in Beijing, on Sunday Feb. 27, 2011.

Associated Press

lems that Wen acknowledged could cause protests if left unchecked. “Rapid inflation affects people’s livelihoods and may affect social stability,” Wen said. He later added: “I know the impact that prices can cause a country and am deeply aware of its extreme importance.” Asked about the high rates of growth set by local governments and worries they could worsen environmental degradation, Wen said that the 7 percent target would be embedded in the current five-year plan for 2011-2015 “to raise the quality and efficiency of economic growth.” “We absolutely cannot again sacrifice the environment as the cost for high-speed growth, to have blind development, and in that way to create overcapacity and put greater pressure on the environment and resources,” he said. “That economic development is unsustainable.” The premier’s two-hour online chat on the government’s Xinhua News Agency website came six days before the opening of the national legislature’s annual session, during which the largely powerless, Communist Party-controlled body will approve the five-year plan and other policies. Wen has held the Internet chat on the eve of the National People’s Congress for three years. The event is designed to give a more modern cast to the often distant, authoritarian leadership and show its concern for the public. Wen is the leadership’s most popular figure. Grandfatherly, polite and solicitous, he is sometimes shown on state television consoling victims of natural disasters and dining with workers and the poor. In one of the more colorful gripes Wen heard Sunday, a person who identified himself as a worker complained about the local officials who cut off electricity supplies to meet severe targets Beijing issued to save energy. The worker, who used the online name Fengyun Bianhuan, said that in his neighborhood, the cut-off forced people to use flashlights while cooking breakfast. Wen said that when he learned about such measures, he became angry and ordered local government officials to stop. Some officials were disciplined for their actions, he said. The premier also struck a sympathetic note on one of China’s most divisive social issues: controls that divide the population into rural and urban households and use that classification to deprive rural migrants of urban social services when they move to cities. Wen said rural migrants now number 240 million — far higher than previous figures. □

Big banks: Foreclosure probes carry financial risk

NEW YORK (AP) — Probes by state attorneys general and other government agencies into banks’ foreclosure practices carry the risk of fines and other major costs, according to regulatory filings from three of the country’s biggest banks. Revelations that major U.S. banks rammed through hundreds of foreclosures daily without giving many borrowers a fair shot at keeping their homes triggered investigations from all 50 states’ attorneys general and from state and federal regulators. They also sparked pressure from lawmakers and class-action lawsuits. Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc. and Wells Fargo & Co. called out possible financial repercussions in annual filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission Friday. None of them

provided any details on how much was at risk. “Those investigations and any irregularities that might be found in our foreclosure processes, along with any remedial steps taken in response to governmental investigations or to our own internal assessment, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations,” Bank of America said. The Charlotte, North Carolina-based bank said it is dedicating significant resources to comply with investigations, and warned that the probes could result in “material fines, penalties” and expose the company to new lawsuits and more legal costs. “Our costs increased in the fourth quarter of 2010 and we expect that additional costs incurred in connection with our foreclosure process assess-

ment will continue into 2011 due to the additional resources necessary to perform the foreclosure process assessment, to revise affidavit filings and to implement other operational changes,” Bank of America said in the filing. New York-based Citigroup said investigations and scrutiny of its own foreclosure processes have “resulted in, and may continue to result in, the diversion of management’s attention and increased expense, and could result in fines, penalties, other equitable remedies, such as principal reduction programs, and significant legal, negative reputational and other costs.” Wells Fargo also said it is being investigated by several government agencies for its foreclosure practices. “It is likely that one or more of the government

agencies will initiate some type of enforcement action against Wells Fargo, which may include civil money penalties,” the company said in its filing. “Wells Fargo continues to provide information requested by the various agencies.” The bank also said several lawsuits have been filed against it, claiming that Wells Fargo submitted fraudulent affidavits or other documents to foreclose on homes. “Specifically, plaintiffs allege that Wells Fargo signers did not have personal knowledge of the facts alleged in the documents and did not verify the information in the documents ultimately filed with courts to foreclose,” the San Francisco-based bank said in the filing. □

“Gnomeo & Juliet” wins

Box office winner on Oscar weekend



NEW YORK – Wherefore art thou, Gnomeo? Atop the box office, that’s where.

Walt Disney’s “Gnomeo & Juliet,” an animated 3-D twist on “Romeo and Juliet,” took in \$14.2 million in its third week of release, leading the box office on Oscar weekend, according to studio estimates. In a lighthearted, G-rated version of the Shakespeare drama, the film uses garden gnomes in roles usually reserved for heavyweights of the stage.

It was a surprising upset win for “Gnomeo,” which bested underperforming debuts from Owen Wilson and Nic Cage. The Farrelly brothers’ R-rated comedy “Hall Pass” earned \$13.4 million for Warner Bros. Cage’s 3-D action film “Drive Angry” took in just \$5.1 million for Summit Entertainment.

The Liam Neeson thriller “Unknown” earned \$12.4 million in its second weekend of release, bringing its cumulative total to a solid \$42.8 million for Warner Bros.

In its third week of release, Paramount’s 3-D Justin Bieber concert documentary, “Justin Bieber: Never Say Never,” took in \$9.2 million. To boost repeat business from die-hard Bieber fans, the film was re-edited by director Jon Chu in a “fan cut,” made using suggestions from the teen pop star’s rabid following.

But the weekend belonged to “Gnomeo,” which didn’t take no. 1 until this weekend. “Gnomeo,” whose lead characters are voiced by James McAvoy and Emily Blunt, has now earned a total of \$75.1 million.

“It is one of those wonderful little benefits that you don’t see coming,” said Chuck Viane, head of distribution at Disney.

Viane credited the unlikely success of the film to good word-of-mouth, the lack of family film competition in the marketplace and that a G-rated film built on afternoon movie-going need worry less about audiences staying home night for the Academy Awards.

“When most people are sitting down to watch the Oscars, we will have had the vast majority of our business,” said Viane. Academy Awards weekend is historically a weak moviegoing time, though some moviegoers use the chance to catch up on Oscar-nominated films still in theaters. The best picture favorite “The King’s Speech,” from the Weinstein Co., saw its grosses jump 17 percent over last weekend’s. It added \$7.6 million in its 14th week of release to boost its total to \$114.5 million.

Results were poor for Cage’s “Drive Angry,” which follows the weak debut of his “Season of the Witch” in January. That film opened to \$10.6 million. The heavily promoted “Hall Pass,” which stars Wilson and Jason Sudeikis, also underperformed.

“It’s a tough weekend because you don’t really have a full,” said Dan Fellman, head of distribution at Warner Bros. “It’s very difficult to project on Academy.”

Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian, however, notes: “Kids don’t care about the Oscars. They just want to go to the movies.” □

In Hollywood

Ready for Oscars coronation

HOLLYWOOD – Hollywood holds its biggest night of the year as the annual Oscars coronation gets underway with two very different front-running films vying for top honors.

British royal drama “The King’s Speech” was seen as a major contender for Best Picture, buoyed by glowing reviews and a bevy of other awards seen as accurate barometers of Oscars glory.

The movie, nominated for 12 Academy Awards -- including best actor for Colin Firth -- has been tipped by some critics as a shoo-in for best picture.

It faces stiff competition, however, from the crowd-pleasing Facebook flick “The Social Network,” deemed one of the year’s must-see films, which is nominated for eight awards.

With hours to go before the annual awards mega-bash, stars were fine-tuning their acceptance speeches, fingers crossed and preparing to don their gowns and tuxedos for the Oscars red carpet.

And while “The King’s Speech” is the frontrunner, no one is taking anything for



granted as rivals, including Western remake “True Grit” and boxing movie “The Fighter,” vie for Oscars glory.

That said, Firth is considered all but certain to be named best actor for his portrayal of Britain’s King George VI, helped by Australian voice coach Lionel Logue played by Geoffrey Rush to overcome his crippling stammer. David Fincher could well be named best director for “The Social Network,” which tells the story of how Mark Zuckerberg created the game-changing website from a controversial start while a Harvard student, some critics say.

“The Social Network” started

the awards season as favorite, taking four Golden Globes in January. But the British royal film has since swept up a series of prizes, both in the United States and at Britain’s BAFTA, the 10-strong short-list for best film also includes hi-tech thriller “Inception,” “127 Hours” a true story about a hiker forced to amputate his own arm and “Toy Story 3,” widely tipped as best animated feature.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences last year decided to expand the best-picture category from five films to 10 in order to better reflect the most popular movies. □

Dolce&Gabbana bring sensual curves to Milan

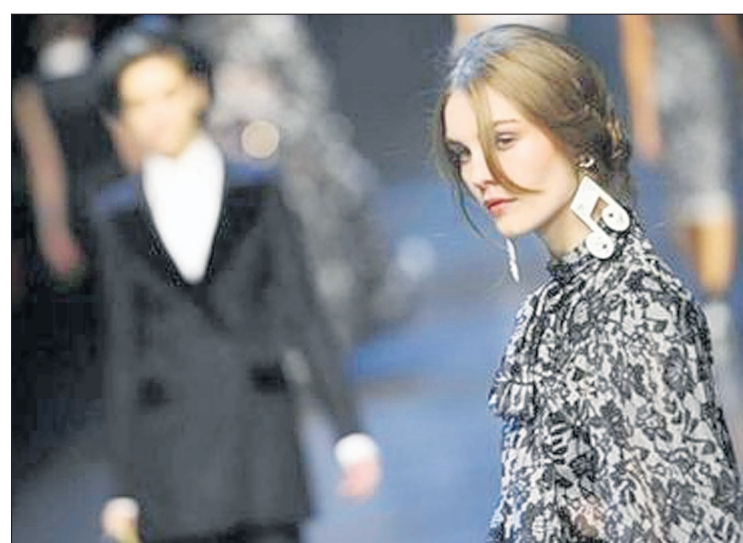
MILAN – Dolce&Gabbana’s sparkling jackets and star-studded dresses on curvy models dazzled Milan Fashion Week as guests and viewers around the world watched the action backstage streamed live.

The pair had gone for slightly rounder-looking girls for their skin-tight dresses, adding a touch of feminine shape and sensuality to a collection otherwise dominated by masculine lines.

The theme was distinctly music-centric, as models with piano key and treble clef motifs on dresses, bags and earrings sauntered down the catwalk to Martha & The Vandella’s “Dancing in the Street”.

Milan met hipster-Brooklyn with oversized, sleeveless or cut-off pinstripe suits worn with Sinatra-style trilbies on the back of the head.

Bedazzling emerald green and



silver jackets and dresses were worn with over-the-ankle socks and high heels, while the series of yellow, black or white floaty star dresses were cut low at the back to reveal black bra straps.

Bloggers’ and tweeters’ comments were posted live on large screens above the catwalk, as webcam footage showed designers Stefano

Gabbana and Domenico Dolce rushing to put the last touches to outfits seconds before they hit the floor.

Dolce and Gabbana, who took a smiling bow together after the show and shot straight off to celebrate backstage, showed no sign of concern about an investigation for alleged tax fraud of one billion dollars against them. □



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Hollywood shines up for the Oscars



LOS ANGELES – Hollywood polished up its golden boy statue, the Oscar, for its glittery awards ceremony with “The King’s Speech” and “The Network” leading the field for the world’s top movie honors.

The presentation will feature two youthful co-hosts, actors James Franco, 32, and Anne Hathaway, 28, marking the first time a man and woman have presided over the Oscars. Hathaway is the youngest person to emcee what is annually the second most-watched TV show in the United States and broadcast live in more than 200 countries worldwide.

“The King’s Speech” and Facebook film “The Social Network” are widely considered front-runners to be named best movie by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Best actress and actor nominees including Nicole Kidman, Natalie Portman, Javier Bardem and Colin Firth will parade up the red carpet outside Hollywood’s Kodak Theater in fashionable gowns and tuxedos ahead of the ceremony night.

Producers say the ceremony, at which more than 20 awards will be given out in just over three hours, is meant to connect movie fans to the Hollywood of old, while also giving a nod to the future with web cams and Twitter feeds. □

Latinos in U.S. will have ‘justice’

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Colombian singer Shakira was honored Saturday by Harvard University for her artistic and humanitarian work. She later said some U.S. states’ proposed anti-immigrant legislation goes against her foundation’s efforts to provide education to poor people around the world.

The Grammy Award-winning singer, however, said Latino immigrants in the U.S. facing various anti-immigrant bills will have “justice” as public awareness about their plight grows.

“Justice will come. I’m sure,” Shakira told The Associated Press after the award ceremony. “Wherever there is a kid, who could be the son or the daughter of a Latino immigrant, who cannot attend a school in the United States of America, that kid should be a concern to all of us and our responsibility.”

Shakira made the comments in an interview when asked about proposed measures in Arizona and elsewhere targeting illegal immigrants. A bill in Arizona, for example, would bar illegal immigrants



from attending public schools, living in public housing or driving. Another bill seeks to deny citizenship to children born in the U.S. if their parents are illegal immigrants.

“I believe we should never think less of the Latino community because it’s a productive force in this country,” Shakira told the AP.

The singer, born Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll, was awarded the “2011 Artist of the Year” from the Harvard

Foundation, the university’s center for intercultural arts and science initiatives.

Foundation director S. Allen Counter said Shakira, who has sold more than 50 million albums worldwide, was honored for her “distinguished history of creativity,” as well as for her charitable contributions.

Previous winners of the Harvard award include Sharon Stone, Will Smith, Jackie Chan and Herbie Hancock. □

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Air travelers may have been exposed to measles

WASHINGTON — Public health officials are warning travelers and workers present at four U.S. airports on two recent days that they may have been exposed to measles from a traveler arriving from London.

Authorities said Saturday that a New Mexico woman later confirmed to have measles arrived at Washington Dulles International Airport late in the afternoon of Feb. 20. Two days later, the measles-infected traveler departed from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport near Baltimore on an evening flight to Denver, Colo., and

then on to Albuquerque, N.M. The traveler became sick and was subsequently diagnosed with measles in New Mexico, said Tom Skinner, a spokesman for the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He said Saturday night that authorities in those states are trying to notify travelers who sat close to the infected passenger on the flights.

The New Mexico Department of Health's scientific laboratory division didn't identify the traveler by name but said she was a 27-year-old Santa Fe, N.M., woman who had not



been immunized against measles. "The appropriate steps are being taken to reach out to those passengers on the plane that were in close enough proximity," Skinner said of those seated five rows in front or behind the infected passenger. Although most Americans have been vaccinated for measles or are immune because they've had the disease, public health officials are concerned about those not immunized, including babies. Pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems are also more at risk. Authorities say people who were at the airports at the

same time as the infected traveler and develop a fever or other symptoms should contact their doctors.

Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease specialist at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, said the potential exposure of so many travelers in airport terminals is a cause for concern.

He said measles is "highly communicable" and can be associated with complications leading to death. "We don't want measles to be imported back into the U.S. once it gets a foothold," Schaffner told The Associated Press. □

Past medical testing on humans revealed



ATLANTA — Shocking as it may seem, U.S. government doctors once thought it was fine to experiment on disabled people and prison inmates. Such experiments included giving hepatitis to mental patients in Connecticut, squirting a pandemic flu virus up the noses of prisoners in Maryland, and injecting cancer cells into chronically ill people at a New York hospital.

Much of this horrific history is 40 to 80 years old, but it is the backdrop for a meeting in Washington this week by a presidential bioethics commission. The meeting was triggered by the government's apology last fall for federal doctors infecting prisoners and mental patients in Guatemala with syphilis 65 years ago. U.S. officials also acknowledged there had been dozens of similar experiments in the United States studies that often involved making healthy people sick. An exhaustive review by The Associated Press of medical journal reports and decades-old press clippings found more than 40 such studies. □

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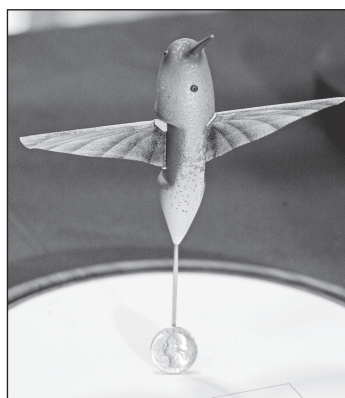
MARCIA DUNN

form to the orbiting lab. Once up, the 12 orbiting astronauts hustled to haul fresh supplies from Discovery into the space station and get ready for Monday's spacewalk, the first of two planned for this week. One of the two astronauts stepping out — Stephen Bowen — is a latecomer to the mission. He joined the crew last month, replacing lead spacewalker Timothy Kopra, who was hurt in a bicycle crash. Bowen, an experienced spacewalker with five to his credit, quickly came up to speed, Korth said. "Steve will do just fine, and we have absolutely every con-



Associated Press

Matt Keennon of AeroVironment showed off the high-tech device Friday to journalists at company facilities in Simi Valley.



Associated Press

Kopra — still on crutches — will help direct both spacewalks from Mission Control. During Monday's outing, Bowen and Alvin Drew will move a broken ammonia pump to a better storage area on the station's exterior and install an extension power cable. The cable extension needs to be hooked up before a chamber full of supplies can be installed permanently on the orbiting lab; the Italian-

"Today my crew is going to be getting ready for the mission's 1st spacewalk," R2 said in a tweet, posted by a human colleague back on Earth. "Wish I could go with them! Maybe someday."

Two launches remain — by Endeavour in April and Atlantis at the end of June. □

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Bolivia: Lluvias causan derrumbe

LA PAZ (AP) - Al menos 400 casas de barrios pobres de esta capital fueron arrasadas por deslizamientos de tierra al colapsar un cerro entre el sábado y el domingo debido a las torrenciales lluvias, informaron las autoridades.

No hubo víctimas fatales pero sí cuantiosos daños, informó el alcalde Luis Revilla. Las lluvias han causado inundaciones y derrumbes en gran parte del país y se han registrado al menos 44 muertes desde finales de enero, según los informes oficiales. En el derrumbe del cerro capitalino inicialmente se informó de 100 casas arrasadas, pero nuevos deslizamientos aumentaron la cifra a unas 400 viviendas en una extensión de 80 a 100 hectáreas, dijo a la AP el portavoz del municipio Edwin Herrera.

El hecho ocurrió cuando la ladera del cerro en el barrio Callapa, al este de La Paz, comenzó a desplomarse desde la noche del sábado hasta colapsar completamente la madrugada del domingo. El deslizamiento de tierras seguía del domingo en medio de una llovizna persistente. “Hasta ahora estamos hablando de 5.000 afectados pero el derrumbe está afectando a más barrios en las zonas bajas”, dijo Herrera.

Maquinaria pesada del municipio intentaba evitar que el deslave cierre el cauce de un río y afecte a más barrios en la parte baja de la zona afectada. La evacuación de los habitantes comenzó el sábado en la noche cuando aparecieron rajaduras en las avenidas y las casas. El domingo, el lugar parecía como sacudido por un sismo: muchas personas trataban de recuperar muebles sepultados por tierra y lodo, y otras sacaban sus enseres desde casas a punto de desplomarse.

“Anoche (sábado) mis vecinos corrían por todo lado y me pedían que salga. Cuando vi por la ventana ya no había casas



Un grupo de damnificados se desplazan en un área del barrio de Valle de Flores, en La Paz, Bolivia, donde un deslizamiento de tierra causado por fuertes lluvias destruyó unas 100 casas, el domingo, 27 de febrero del 2010. (Foto AP/Juan Karita)

ni a la derecha ni la izquierda de la mía”, relató acongojada María Elena Siles, madre de tres adolescentes. El ministro de Defensa, Rubén Saavedra, dijo que el gobierno movilizó a soldados para ayudar a evacuar y rescatar enseres de los afectados. Un cementerio emplazado en un cerro quedó dividido en dos al abrirse una enorme grieta en el suelo. Es el segundo derrumbe masivo de casas en la ciudad por causa de las lluvias. Hace más de una semana unas 20 precarias viviendas en la ladera de otro cerro se vinieron abajo sin causar víctimas.

Herrera dijo que el fenómeno del domingo es el más grave en la historia de esta ciudad donde las lluvias activan con frecuencia fallas geológicas en cerros saturados donde están emplazados en su mayoría barrios pobres. La Defensa Civil, en tanto, informó de nuevas víctimas fatales en hechos causados por las lluvias. Dijo que cinco personas murieron cuando un vehículo de transporte de pasajeros cayó a un río crecido en un barrio del sur de la ciudad, lo cual incrementa a 44 las víctimas fatales en el país a raíz del mal tiempo.

Desde el viernes no deja de llover en la mayoría de las regiones del país, incluso La Paz. El presidente Evo Morales declaró el martes emergencia

nacional ante las lluvias e inundaciones que azotan a seis de los nueve departamentos y destinó 20 millones de dólares para cubrir los requerimientos de las operaciones de asistencia y de reparación de daños a la infraestructura vial.

Centenares de familias fueron evacuadas a albergues temporales y el número está creciendo.

El gobierno envió toneladas de ayuda a los afectados y muchos pobladores de remotas regiones rurales han pedido ayuda a las autoridades a través de emisoras. Las lluvias que llegaron más tarde de lo habitual podrían prolongarse hasta marzo, según los pronósticos del servicio de Meteorología. Hasta diciembre varias regiones del país todavía sufrían de una prolongada sequía. □

Venezuela recomienda a las partes en Libia que dialoguen

CARACAS (AP) - El canciller de Venezuela llamó el domingo a un diálogo entre aliados y adversarios del líder libio Moamar Gadafi, y expresó su esperanza de que ambas partes puedan encontrar una solución pacífica a la violenta crisis en el país norafricano. El ministro Nicolás Maduro dijo que Venezuela se opondrá a cualquier decisión del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU que abra el camino a una intervención militar en Libia, un paso que los miembros permanentes han descartado. “Abogamos en el caso específico del pueblo libio que sepan encontrar los caminos del dialogo nacional, que sepan encontrar el camino del reencuentro nacional, de la preservación de la independencia de Libia”, dijo. Políticos de la oposición fustigaron a Maduro, afirmando que él debería haber condenado firmemente la violencia que ha desatado el asediado

régimen de Gadafi contra su pueblo y que debería mejor llamar a una reconciliación en Venezuela, afirmando que el país está profundamente dividido por el gobierno del presidente Hugo Chávez. “Primero debe ocuparse el gobierno venezolano de la reconciliación entre los venezolanos”, dijo el legislador opositor William Ojeda en una entrevista telefónica. Maduro no habló de la decisión unánime del Consejo el sábado de imponer un embargo de armas a Libia como parte de un esfuerzo para frenar la violenta represión del Gadafi contra sus opositores. Los miembros de consejo también acordaron referir la represión a un tribunal permanente de crímenes de guerra para posible investigación de crímenes contra la humanidad. El presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez no ha condenado ni ha defendido las acciones de Gadafi para reprimir la rebelión,

pero el sábado dio su apoyo tácito a su aliado libio. “No puedo decir que apoyo, que estoy a favor o aplaudo cualquier decisión que tome cualquier amigo mío en cualquier parte del mundo”, dijo Chávez durante un discurso televisado. “Nosotros sí apoyamos a la independencia de Libia, al gobierno de Libia. Queremos la paz para la Libia”, dijo. En lugar de expresar su apoyo al gobierno de Gadafi, Chávez debería unirse al coro de voces en todo el mundo que se han pronunciado en contra de las medidas adoptadas por Gadafi para aplastar a la disidencia, dijo Ojeda. “¿Cómo puede ser que hasta el representante de Gadafi en la ONU ha reconocido que hay violaciones masivas de los derechos humanos en Libia y que nuestro gobierno dé su apoyo a Gadafi? Es una vergüenza”, aseguró Ojeda. □

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